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ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1983 – JUNE 1984

MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Amesbury
Andover
Boxford
Georgetown
Groveland
Haverhill
Lawrence
Merrimac
Methuen
Newbury
Newburyport
North Andover
Rowley
Salisbury
West Newbury

25th Year of Community Service

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

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Haverhill, Massachusetts 01830
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Annual Report

July 1983 - June 1984

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From the Chairman

The 25th Anniversary of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission provides a good opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments and value of the Commission.

From my experience as a Commissioner, I can attest to the financial benefits of my town's membership in the MVPC as being many times the cost of dues. In addition, there are many subtle and indirect benefits when the area collectively speaks out on issues or carries out programs that might otherwise be conducted by the state or federal governments.

Speakers at our 25th Anniversary Banquet provided a broader view of the value of the Commission. Congressman Nicholas Mavroules and Mayor William Ryan of Haverhill spoke highly of the MVPC's work for the area.

Mayor John Buckley of Lawrence provided a long-range view of the Commission, as one of its founding officials, and attested to the very valuable role of the MVPC in many fields in contributing to the Valley's progress.

Currently, MVPC's financial situation seems to have stabilized, which is a positive situation when compared to the cutbacks of recent years.

In the near future I see it as essential that the state provide some reasonable level of financial assistance to offset at least a part of the federal budget cuts MVPC continues to experience and which may worsen.

For the long-term future, I believe the Commission must adapt to change and circumstances as necessary if it is to be as productive as it can. In this regard, I think the MVPC must be alert and ready to develop improvements in its structure. This would be a highly appropriate and momentous matter for deliberation as the Commission begins its second quarter-century.

Lawrence H. Ogden, Chairman

From the Director

The 1984 fiscal year was an MVPC landmark year for several reasons.

First, it constituted the Commission's 25th anniversary of service to the valley. This service has occurred during a quarter-century of the most dramatic and beneficial change in the valley.

Secondly, it was a year in which the Commission's previously declining budget situation was stabilized - indeed even slightly reversed. As a result, no layoffs occurred and the Commission achieved a level of stability that was a primary goal for the year.

Thirdly, it was a year in which the Commission acquired major new tools and techniques to carry out its work. Microcomputers and automatic traffic counters were purchased, computer models were developed, and new data banks set up.

Most importantly, it was a year in which much was done for the area's communities. Grant funds were obtained for member communities. Transportation study recommendations are being implemented. New MVPC services are being provided, such as systematic local traffic counting and the institution of energy audits for small industries.

It was also a landmark year for myself, being my first full year as Executive Director. In this regard, I would like to note that one of my most interesting and enjoyable activities was to visit the chief official and/or board of each community and to be warmly received by all.

I believe the reader of this Annual Report will find that the MVPC carried out an extraordinary amount and breadth of work during its 25th year. This is due to the extraordinary energy and commitment of Commissioners and staff. I am confident that yet more can be achieved during the next year.

Gaylord I. Burke, Executive Director

Community Representatives

Officers

Lawrence H. Ogden, Chairman
 Glenn Meurer, Vice Chairman
 William E. Slusher, Treasurer
 L. Donald Phillips, Assistant Treasurer
 Edward Irvin, Secretary

Delegates (as of June 30, 1984) 1984)

Paula Newcomb
 Paul Moscardini (Resigned)

Stephen Flashenberg
 Jon Gilmore (Resigned)

Lawrence Ogden
 Robert Bombardieri

William Slusher
 Kathleen Lenz (Resigned)

Robert Moore
 Joseph Bevilacqua

John Stundza
 Ronald Landry

Richard Gosselin
 Richard Waterhouse

Richard Gladstone
 Kevin Haggerty

Sharon Trefry
 Angelo Machiros

L. Donald Phillips
 Fred Gabriel

Gayton Osgood
 John Burke

Glenn Meurer
 Michael Griffin

Edward Irvin
 Charles Keenan

Richard Thurlow
 Woodbury Cammett (Resigned)

Meetings and Participation

There were many opportunities for citizens, local officials, and MVPC Commissioners to participate in a wide variety of issues addressed by the MVPC. In addition to regular monthly MVPC meetings, there were many Committee meetings, advisory committee meetings, public hearings, and public presentations.

The great majority of Commission delegates once again proved to be hardworking and faithful attendees at both Commission and Committee meetings. A quorum was achieved at all Commission meetings. A quorum was also achieved at nearly all of the more than forty Committee meetings.

Community	Commission Meetings Represented*
Andover	2 of 12
Andover	10 of 12
Georgetown	11 of 12
Groveland	12 of 12
Haverhill**	1 of 12
Lawrence	9 of 12
Merrimac	5 of 12
Methuen	9 of 12
Newbury	10 of 12
Newburyport	11 of 12
North Andover	5 of 12
Rowley	9 of 12
Salisbury	11 of 12
West Newbury	1 of 12

* 2 were Executive Committee Meetings.

**Robert Moore appointed 6/84.

MVPC Committees

Executive Committee
 Finance Committee
 Personnel Committee
 Program Committee
 Intergovernmental Review Committee
 Bylaws Committee
 Transportation Planning Advisory Group
 Overall Econ. Development Program Committee

The Region



Regional Facts 1980

Population 260,893

Housing Units 100,363

Employment 124,220



Transportation

The MVPC Transportation Planning Program identifies and addresses regional transportation issues and assists member communities with their transportation needs. The MVPC works with the Massachusetts Department of Public Works, the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA), and member communities. The program includes:

- conducting a "3C" planning process as the lead agency in the area's Metropolitan Planning Organization
- preparing regional transportation documents, such as the Transportation Improvement Program and the Regional Transportation Plan
- support of the Transportation Planning Advisory Group
- performing studies on major regional and local transportation issues
- the Regional Traffic Counting Program
- assisting communities in transportation related matters

1984 Transportation Improvement Program

The Transportation Improvement Program is a listing of transportation projects expected to be implemented in the next five years using state or federal funds. The FY1984 Program listed 46 highway projects in 11 communities totaling over \$30 million in cost. Also listed was funding for the MVRTA, elderly and handicapped transportation, and commuter rail. The Program was prepared in October 1983, and by June 30, 1984 six highway projects were advertised for bid.

Transportation Planning Advisory Group

The Transportation Planning Advisory Group provides a mechanism for local input in the transportation planning process. Members representing communities, interest groups, and interested citizens meet regularly to review ongoing work of the transportation staff, guide the direction of planning activities, rank transportation projects, and provide input into the Regional Transportation Plan. Meetings are attended by representatives of state and federal transportation agencies as appropriate.

Highway Planning

Fiscal 1984 was a productive year for the MVPC in highway planning. Several studies were completed, and the acquisition of microcomputers enabled the MVPC to begin important new programs.

Route 125 Ward Hill - North Andover Traffic Study

This study was undertaken in response to concern from state and local officials. New developments in the Route 125 corridor, are expected to increase already high traffic volumes and accident totals. Six problems along Route 125 were identified, including safety deficiencies at Western Electric, Great Pond Road, and Holt Road; potential future capacity problems at the Holt Road intersection and north of Western Electric; and non-optimal signal timing and roadway use at the Route 125 Connector intersection. The study recommended lane striping at the Route 125 Connector intersection, installation of warning and regulatory signs at Western Electric and Great Pond Road, and reconstruction of the Holt Road intersection. The MDPW approved these recommendations and moved them to the project development phase for implementation.

Regionwide Systems Performance Study

One of the needs of the transportation planning process is a regional inventory of highway system deficiencies. The acquisition of microcomputers enabled the MVPC to undertake a study to fulfill this need. The study evaluated safety conditions for 1,208 intersections and highway links and capacity analysis for intersections, expressways, and rural arterials. Although a lack of traffic volume data made it impossible to complete the analyses for all locations, preliminary lists of high accident and congested locations were prepared. With the accident and highway characteristics data now stored in the computer's memory for analysis, the large amount of traffic data collected in this year can be used to complete the analyses.

Regional Traffic Counting Program

In December of 1983 the MVPC obtained three automatic traffic counters through a grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau. During the months that followed, the staff began the work of instituting the program, including planning and scheduling counts and notifying communities of the program's initiation. Counting began in March, and by June 30 seventy-one counts had been taken in six communities, including thirty-one at locations requested by the communities.

The Regional Traffic Counting Program has three goals--to improve and update the MVPC and state data bases, to assist MVPC communities, and to create a regional traffic data center. The updated data base will provide volume information for various traffic studies, including local and subregional studies, the Regionwide Systems Performance Study, and the Regional Traffic Simulation Model. The program assists communities by taking counts at requested locations. The MVPC is able to respond more quickly to local requests than the MDPW, which is responsible for the entire state and thus cannot concentrate its efforts on any one area. The regional traffic data center compiles all counts taken by the MDPW, the MVPC, cities and towns, and private firms doing traffic studies in the area.

The Regional Traffic Counting Program has made the MVPC the largest traffic data collection agency in the region. The MVPC will report annually on traffic count data to each community. This will continue as an ongoing service of the MVPC for years to come.

Pelham Street Traffic Study

This study was done under contract to the Town of Methuen. The town was concerned about traffic conditions on Pelham Street west of I-93 and the impacts of an expected large amount of future development on these conditions. The study determined that while traffic appears to be congested only occasionally at present, new developments will cause the need for improvements in the near future. These improvements include signalization of the I-93 off ramps at Pelham Street and channelization improvements. A proposed rezoning of single family residential land to allow condominiums would not itself cause major changes in traffic conditions regardless of how much other growth occurs.

Ongoing Studies

At the close of the fiscal year, two major studies were in progress. These were:

Regional Traffic Simulation Model- use of the microcomputer to determine the effects on traffic volumes of residential, commercial, and industrial growth and changes in the region's highway network.

Route 114 Traffic Study - a study of existing and future traffic conditions and measures for improvement on this important arterial road.

Other Activities

The transportation staff also took part in a number of smaller highway-related activities, including:

- assistance to the Town of North Andover in preparing a scope of services for a traffic study of the development of the Davis & Furber Mill Complex
- assistance to the City of Haverhill in identifying needed improvements at eleven intersections
- analysis of traffic conditions at thirty-three intersections throughout the region
- continual improvement of the regional highway data base

Transit Planning

The MVPC is the principal transit planning agency in the region. During fiscal 1984 the MVPC conducted several planning studies and provided technical assistance to the MVRTA and other transportation providers in the region.

Amesbury - Newburyport - Salisbury Bus Study

There is currently no public transportation service in these three communities in the eastern part of the MVPC region. This study was undertaken by the MVPC and ATE Management and Service Co., Inc. to analyze public transportation needs and to develop transit service alternatives for these communities. The study, which began in April 1984, was divided into two phases. Phase I was performed by the MVPC in the spring and included analysis of population, economic, and journey-to-work data; land use inventories; identification of potential transit rider generators; analysis of existing transit services provided privately; employer surveys; and discussions with local officials and residents. Phase II, which is scheduled to be completed by October 1984, includes: identification of service alternatives; analysis of cost and ridership; local input from the three communities; and preparation of a report to be used by officials in the three communities to determine which service alternatives should be implemented.

Comprehensive Weeбус Service Analysis

The MVPC conducted an analysis of Weeбус service for the elderly and handicapped in Andover, Methuen, and North Andover. Service was operating independently in each town, which sometimes resulted in overlapping or duplicative service. It was found that service could be more effective and cost-efficient if it were better coordinated among the three towns. The study recommended regional coordination on a trial basis. The MVRTA concurred and coordination of service began on July 1, 1984.

Methuen Commuter Rail Study

In March, 1984 the MVPC completed an in-depth evaluation of the feasibility of providing commuter rail service between Methuen and Boston. This study was conducted at the request of the MVRTA and more fully examined selected service alternatives which MVPC identified in a 1983 preliminary report. Also, the operational and cost considerations of providing service to Salem and Rockingham Park were examined. Potential ridership, economic benefits, capital and operating costs, and operational feasibility were estimated for each alternative.

The study found that the cost of providing direct commuter rail service to Methuen or Salem would be high. This is primarily due to the large capital expenditures necessary for track upgrading and purchase of additional rolling stock. The study found that feeder bus service between Methuen and Lawrence Station would be a less expensive method of serving commuters in the Methuen/ Salem area.

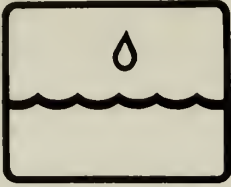
MVRTA Bus Stop Study

In this project the MVPC identified several hundred bus stop locations for MVRTA routes in Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover. Currently, MVRTA buses operate on a "flag stop" basis - the bus stops wherever a passenger wants to get on or off. With formal bus stops the MVRTA hopes to make boarding and alighting buses safer and to provide quicker and more reliable service. The MVPC and MVRTA are currently working with communities in finalizing these locations.

Other Activities

Other transit activities included:

- collection of ridership and passenger origin information for 5 commuter rail stations in the region.
- an analysis of fare changes on MVRTA fixed-route ridership, which showed that fare changes would be more effective if targeted at certain transit market segments.
- making recommendations, later implemented, for better handling of delays on the commuter rail line.



Environment

MVPC's Environmental Program continued its cooperative effort with state and local officials to protect the region's important natural resources. Major activities ranged from the inventorying and mapping of water supply aquifers and wetlands to the preparation of grant applications and protective bylaws.

Groundwater Protection

Strong measures are needed if we are to avoid the loss of additional municipal wells to chemical contamination. On behalf of its groundwater-dependent communities, and in cooperation with the State DEQE, MVPC obtained funds through Section 205(j) of the Clean Water Act to establish locally administered groundwater protection programs. Major components of these programs included underground fuel and chemical storage regulations, leak/spill contingency plans, and spill reporting procedures.

Aquifer Acquisition Funded

On behalf of the Georgetown Board of Selectmen and Water Department, MVPC obtained a \$77,000 state Aquifer Land Acquisition grant to purchase and permanently protect 90 acres of prime woodland and fields adjoining the town's municipal wellfield. These lands were determined by MVPC and others to be critical sources of recharge to the aquifer which feeds the town's wells, and could have contributed bacteria and other pollutants to the wells if improperly developed. Now, under the supervision of the Water Department, these lands will be preserved in their natural state for purposes of water supply protection and recreation.

Lake Restoration - Funds Acquired

With research and grant writing assistance from MVPC, the Town of Georgetown obtained a \$42,000 Clean Lakes Program grant from the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control to conduct a diagnostic-feasibility study of Rock Pond. Once an outstanding recreational resource, the pond has declined significantly in recent years as a result of increasing inputs of nutrients and other pollutants. With the grant now in hand, the town will be able to hire experts to study the pond and its watershed, identify the specific sources of pollution, and develop a plan for pond restoration. An important secondary benefit will be improved water quality in nearby Pentucket Pond and other downstream reaches of the Parker River, one of the last remaining pristine streams in eastern Massachusetts.

Parker River Protection Management

MVPC continued to help its member communities develop a watershed management plan to protect the mainstem and tributaries of the Parker River. This plan identifies important physical, cultural, and recreational resources of the river and its corridor, and will serve as the basis for designating the Parker River a "scenic river" under the state's Scenic and Recreational Rivers Program. Such designation will authorize the river communities of Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, and Newbury to restrict or prohibit harmful activities, such as dredging or filling, which might impair the quality or natural flow of the river. This project is supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering.

Merrimack River Greenway Plan

As a member of the Oversight Committee of the Merrimack River Watershed Council, MVPC helped to identify and evaluate potential riverfront improvement projects in the reach of the river between downtown Lowell and "The Neck" in Haverhill.

Oil Spill Contingency Plan Completed

In conjunction with the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management and Metropolitan Area Planning Council, MVPC completed a two-year oil spill contingency planning program to aid coastal communities of the upper North Shore (including Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, and Salisbury). The program establishes a rapid and coordinated response to both nearshore and offshore oil spills which could damage the area's beaches, marinas, and vital fish and shellfish resources. The key element in the plan is the creation of trained Local Response Teams in each coastal community. Comprised of harbormasters, shellfish wardens, civil defense officers, and other emergency personnel, these teams will mobilize and deploy available oil containment equipment until teams of U.S. Coast Guard and Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control personnel can arrive on-scene.

In developing the response plan, MVPC identified and mapped highly sensitive ecological and recreational resources which will warrant immediate attention in the event of a spill. Included among these are the beach, clam flats, and tidal creeks (such as Black Rock Creek and Blackwater Creek) in Salisbury; the harbor, Parker River estuary, Plum Island Beach, and Plum Island Sound in Newburyport and Newbury; and the network of interconnected rivers and tidal creeks (such as Rowley River, Mud Creek, and Castle Neck River) in Rowley and Ipswich.

The plan also identifies: specific types and locations of various response apparatus, such as boats, oil containment booms, and radio communications equipment; temporary storage sites for removal of oily debris; and local biologists to protect waterfowl and other threatened marine wildlife.

For the first time, response personnel, equipment, and procedures will be coordinated on the federal, state, and local levels. This will help safeguard the coastal environment from major spills, such as that of the tanker Global Hope off of Salem Harbor in 1978.

Hazardous Waste Information Center

In support of the state's comprehensive hazardous waste management program, MVPC continued to serve as one of thirteen regional hazardous waste information centers. Major activities in this capacity included the preparation and dissemination of a variety of education materials on waste generation and disposal, waste source reduction, facilities siting, and the new Right-to-Know Law.

Review of MDC Water Supply Study

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) is considering diversion of Merrimack River waters to meet the water supply needs of Greater Boston. On behalf of its member communities, MVPC began to attend public hearings and review technical documents relating to the Metropolitan District Commission's ongoing water supply study. This study is examining the future water supply needs of the MDC's 45 member communities in eastern and central Massachusetts, and is considering nine alternatives to augment the main Quabbin Reservoir supply. One such alternative is diversion of water from the Merrimack River. In the coming months the MVPC, in cooperation with area communities, will evaluate all data pertaining to this alternative to ensure that the Valley's diverse water supply, hydropower, recreational and ecological interests are fully represented.

Public Education

In cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, Conservation Law Foundation, and Essex County Greenbelt Association, MVPC sponsored a regional groundwater protection workshop to acquaint local officials and citizens with techniques for evaluating and protecting important aquifers, wetlands, and recharge areas. Major topics included groundwater mapping, regulation of underground fuel storage tanks, and management of household hazardous wastes.



Economic Development

The Merrimack Valley's economy continued its fine performance of recent years. MVPC continually supported this growth by assisting the work of private developers and backing urban revitalization programs in Lawrence, Haverhill, and Newburyport.

Economic Development Strategy

The MVPC continued to identify and develop regional economic development strategies for the valley. Over thirty key persons involved in economic development activities in the region were interviewed to identify where the region should be headed and to focus the efforts of the MVPC where they were most needed. The results of this investigation pointed to helping our smaller communities receive a share of the economic growth coming into the valley. Further, it was recommended that these smaller communities band together and use the MVPC as a professional staffing resource to help improve chances for economic growth. These findings and others were contained in the updated Economic Development Strategy.

Economic Development Analyses

To assist in the smaller community industrial development strategy, MVPC prepared site-specific economic development feasibility analyses for Salisbury and Newbury, small communities with interchanges on I-95. Similar work for another I-95 community, Georgetown, was also initiated.

OEDP Plan Update

MVPC prepared the necessary documents to maintain the eligibility of the area's communities for Economic Development Administration grants and loans. The key document - the Overall Economic Development Program - was updated utilizing final figures from the 1980 Census.

Industrial Energy Auditing Service

The MVPC, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy Resources, initiated a new low-cost energy auditing service to industries which have significant energy costs. The energy audit consists of on-site inspections, data collection, and presentations of confidential findings to participating company executives. It is designed to help the Valley's industries maximize their economic competitiveness. The program is targeted for small to mid-size companies which may not be large enough to afford in-house energy management experts. Over 140 firms in the area are eligible to participate.

Site Clearances

MVPC staff reviewed and supported numerous applications for Industrial Revenue Bonds and Urban Development Action Grants totaling in the millions in project costs.

Development Coordination

To coordinate economic development activities with the communities in the valley, the MVPC staff has continued to utilize the Overall Economic Development Planning Committee as a sounding board and for program guidance. The committee has a representative from every community in the MVPC region to insure that economic concerns from both large and small communities are taken into account. Coordination with the business community was also enhanced by the MVPC's membership on two Chamber's of Commerce.

Economic Development Data Bank

As a regional data center, MVPC continued to provide daily a wide variety of data to developers and market researchers. Especially popular with developers were the MVPC's Industrial Zone Profile, an in-depth listing of all industrial zones in the region, and Community Profiles for fifteen municipalities. MVPC also initiated an updating of the Industrial Zone Profile.



Housing

Despite the elimination or reduction of housing planning funds, the MVPC continued its housing improvement program. The Commission's long-term approach to housing is that there should be a "fair-share" distribution of assisted housing among area communities. This multi-community approach to meeting housing needs is reflected in the following activities.

Housing Referral Service

The MVPC continued to operate a regional housing referral service. The service helps the region's elderly in locating suitable, affordable rental housing by providing information on private sector rental housing as well as subsidized housing. This year, the regional service has received over 270 telephone calls and assisted 116 elderly residents. Of the 116, seventy participated in the rental search component of the referral service whereby the MVPC receives apartment listings and notifies elders of these vacancies. Almost half of those assisted have found permanent living quarters as a direct result of information received by the MVPC. Funding for this program may be eliminated and MVPC prepared applications for alternative financing of the service.

Fair Housing Plans Prepared and Approved

The Commission prepared fair housing plans for North Andover and Amesbury. Both were prepared under contract and under very short timetables. The plans were endorsed by the local Boards of Selectmen and subsequently approved by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, thereby avoiding in both towns the possible loss of state funds.

New Horizons Program Continued

The MVPC continued its participation in HUD's New Horizon's program in an effort to promote housing opportunity in the region. The Commission is the only agency of its type in the state striving to continue its areawide housing planning through the New Horizons Program. Also, six applications for subsidized housing grants were reviewed for consistency with areawide housing goals.

Housing Data

The Commission continued to gather housing construction data and monitor development trends and characteristics. These data are made available to both private and public housing developers. The inventory of publicly-assisted housing was also maintained.

Subdivision Review

MVPC continued to help local planning boards, conservation commissions, and watershed groups assess the potential impacts of proposed development projects on wetlands, streams, and water supply resources.

Community Assistance

Extensive assistance was provided by MVPC to each member community on a wide variety of issues. Technical Assistance Bulletins were frequently distributed. Seminars were conducted on matters of local government concern, such as the new state Division of Local Mandates.

The MVPC Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program is the most extensive and popular form of community assistance provided to the area's communities. The MVPC annually allocates professional staff time to each community which can be used by the community on almost any planning issue. Intercommunity matters may also be addressed through LTA. All communities in the region benefit from this program, particularly those without full-time planning personnel.

Community assistance is also provided through contracted MVPC services. This vehicle is often used by communities when a service or product is needed very quickly. Yet another form of community assistance may be local analyses conducted by MVPC as part of regional studies.

Community Assistance activity during the fiscal year included:

Amesbury

- Gathered and analyzed census data.
- Evaluated feasibility of bus service.
- Prepared a Fair Housing Plan.

Andover

- Conducted land use survey of downtown.
- Evaluated Weebus service.
- Identified potential bus stops.

Georgetown

- Prepared an Aquifer Acquisition application.
- Prepared a Clean Lakes application.
- Prepared a Master Plan application.
- Helped the town meet MCAD requirements.
- Reviewed two zoning proposals.

Groveland

- Prepared Master Plan Grant application.
- Assisted the Housing Authority in preparing a minority statistics report.

Haverhill

- Performed analysis of 11 intersections.
- Prepared maps for the microelectronics center proposal.

Lawrence

- Identified 135 potential bus stops.
- Conducted traffic counts.

Merrimac

- Provided advice on zoning and multi-family housing matters.

Methuen

- Obtained private grant for MANDC.
- Performed environmental site review.
- Prepared Pelham Street Traffic Study.

Newbury

- Identified industrial/commercial sites.
- Prepared a Home Occupations bylaw.

Newburyport

- Evaluated feasibility of bus service.
- Provided information on Cluster Zoning.

North Andover

- Prepared town population projections.
- Assisted in Master Plan application.
- Prepared a Fair Housing Plan.
- Identified potential bus stops.
- Evaluated Weebus Service.

Rowley

- Investigated potential funding sources for a police lockup.
- Helped the town meet MCAD requirements.

Salisbury

- Prepared a Master Plan application.
- Prepared the report "Salisbury Economic Development Analysis."
- Evaluated subdivision standards.

West Newbury

- Prepared a partial diagnostic evaluation and report on Mill Pond.

Clearinghouse Reviews

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission is a state and federally designated clearinghouse empowered to review proposals for Federal funds, Industrial Revenue Bonds (Chapter 40D), Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (Chapter 132A), Long-Range State Capital Planning and Budget Requests (Chapter 29), local zoning amendments (Chapter 808), and Environmental Impact Statements and Reports (Chapter 62).

During Fiscal Year 1984, the MVPC reviewed 91 such proposals totaling \$162 million in project costs. Clearinghouse reviews are conducted to ensure potential projects do not overlap or duplicate one another, are consistent with regional and local concerns, and constitute efficient solutions to problems. All local governments are provided information and opportunity to comment on MVPC clearinghouse reviews.

Recently, the federal government delegated much of its review responsibility to state governments. The Executive Office of Communities and Development (EOCD) has been designated as the state agency to coordinate the reviews of federally-assisted projects. The MVPC (as well as the other twelve Regional Planning Agencies in the Commonwealth) has signed a memorandum of agreement with EOCD to be the regional agency responsible for reviewing applications for federal funds.

Data Center

The Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce, in concert with the Massachusetts Center for Data, has designated MVPC as a Massachusetts Affiliate Data Center. As an affiliate Data Center, MVPC has much federal and state census information, including unpublished data.

In addition to being a census data center, the MVPC maintains many other types of information such as:

- Employment Data
- Birth and Death Statistics
- Building and Demolition Permit Data
- Journey-to-Work Statistics
- Maps of the Region and Each Town
- Environmental Data and Maps
- Local, Regional, State, and Federal Reports

This information is regularly made available to member cities and towns, citizens, consultants, developers, and the business community.

Administration

Records Maintained

Once again, the Commission met all of its management, reporting, and contractual obligations without a hitch. Proper documentation, records, and/or minutes were also maintained.

The Commission carried out a comprehensive updating of its Personnel Policies, the first thorough updating since 1980. While the majority of policies and benefits remained substantially unchanged, numerous improvements were included.

Equipment Acquired

For the first time in several years, major equipment purchases were made. Two microcomputer systems were acquired along with appropriate software. This will greatly improve the staff's data analysis and word processing capabilities. Three automatic traffic counters were also acquired which will allow MVPC to quickly gather traffic data and provide it systematically to member communities and the state.

Legislative Activities

Several legislative initiatives were carried out. The Commission's bill for the establishment of a minority representative with full voting rights was approved legislatively and signed by the Governor. A bill was submitted allowing the Commission to base its assessments on the state as well as the federal census, thereby providing more equitable assessment practices. A bill was submitted to provide for state contributions to regional planning activities. And, several bills with substantial regional/local impact, such as MassBank, were reviewed.

Informational Brochures

A brochure entitled "A Planning Agency in Plain English" explaining the Commission and its activities was prepared and widely disseminated. A mid-year newsletter was also issued to complement the annual report.

Coordination

As a regional agency, one of MVPC's most important functions is to facilitate intercommunity and interagency coordination. Once again, this activity was carried out extensively and through a variety of mechanisms.

All communities were visited by the MVPC staff. Usually this contact was with the chief policy board or administrative official. In most communities there were numerous local visits by MVPC.

The Commission participated regularly in the deliberations of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies. The MVPC rejoined the national professional organization, the National Association of Regional Councils.

Annual Dinner - 25th Anniversary

The MVPC celebrated its 25th anniversary at an annual dinner attended by 100 citizens and officials. The Commission was honored to have Congressman Nicholas Mavroules as the principal speaker.

Haverhill Mayor William Ryan was host, welcomed the gathering, and complimented the Commission on its good work and valuable contributions to the City.

Chairman Ogden presented a plaque to Lawrence Mayor John Buckley, citing his 25 years of support of MVPC and his public service leadership in the Valley. Mayor Buckley indicated his appreciation for the award and provided an overview of MVPC. He observed that MVPC has served its role well in helping communities obtain funding and getting together and solving their problems in a number of fields. He noted that MVPC helps every community and has made a difference in the Valley.

Congressman Mavroules congratulated MVPC for "Twenty-five years of wonderful work and for the work you'll do in the future." The Congressman's discussion covered his wide-ranging Congressional activities.

Finance

Once again, MVPC's annual audit contained no "findings," indicating a continuation of the MVPC's sound financial management practices. Moreover, MVPC made a number of internal management improvements, such as the expensing of leave time when it is earned rather than used which removes potential cash problems in the future.

Total revenues increased 5 percent from Fiscal Year 1983 to Fiscal Year 1984, while expenses increased only 2 percent over the same period. The resulting temporary addition to the fund balance reflects the MVPC's commitment to stabilizing its expense and staffing levels in order to reduce the impact of impending federal budget cuts and to ensure a continued long-term provision of planning expertise in the many fields needed by the region's cities and towns. However, only 19 percent of FY 1984 revenues were from community assessments, the Commission's only secure funding source. The MVPC's finances therefore continue to depend largely on highly variable contracts with federal and state agencies. Because these contracts depend almost completely on federal appropriations, MVPC will be highly susceptible to expected federal budget cuts.

Audited Statement of Operations

Revenue Sources

Economic Development Admin.	\$ 45,918
Urban Mass Trans. Admin.	41,215
Mass. Coastal Zone Management	4,335
Mass. Dept. of Public Works	110,726
Mass. Dept. of Environmental Quality Engineering	18,000
Mass. Governor's Highway Safety	4,441
Local Contracts	36,779
Local Assessments	64,033
Other Local Revenues	<u>4,068</u>
	\$329,515
NonCash Revenues	<u>655</u>
Total Revenues	\$330,170

Expenses

Direct Salaries	\$127,096
Direct Fringe Benefits	21,673
Indirect Salaries and Costs	130,520
Printing and Special Supplies	1,884
Travel	1,730
In-Kind Services	655
Consultants	434
Equipment	21,746
Meetings Expense	1,384
Other Direct Costs	1,593
Local Expenditures	<u>3,197</u>
Total Expenses	\$311,912
Excess of Resources Over Expenditures	<u>\$ 18,258</u>

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Staff

Staff at End of Year

Gaylord Burke, Executive Director
R. Jeffrey Riotte, Sr. Program Manager
Alan Macintosh, Program Manager
Thomas Rossi, Program Manager
Sharon Ruocco, Administrative Asst.
Shawn Holland, Senior Planner
Anthony Komornick, Senior Planner
Paul Laponius, Planner
Robert Tassinari, Planner
Eric Waaramaa, Planner
Anne VerretSpeck, Accountant
Cynthia Hegh, Secretary

Previous Contributing Staff

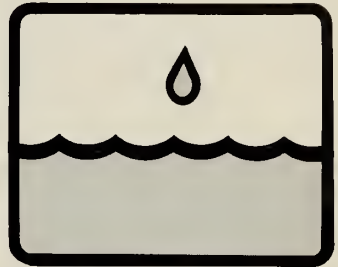
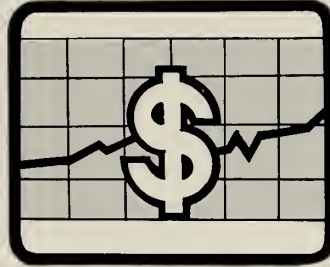
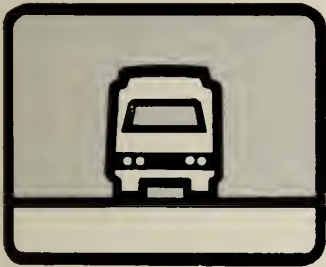
Frank Sylvis, Senior Planner
Linda Sloss, Planner
Dianne O'Neil, Secretary

MASS. Y3. MVI: 1/1982/83

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Annual Report

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission
July 1982 - June 1983



GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION
JUL 8 1987
University of Massachusetts
Depository Copy

From The Chairman

Substantial positive change occurred at the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission during the past year. The Commission has clearly reinforced its objective of providing direct service to our member communities and thus the region. Our emphasis has gone beyond planning to implementing, to looking for real projects of benefit, to direct services, and to obtaining results. The Commission will continue this direction and emphasis in the forthcoming year.

The Commission has been very much involved with and has contributed positively to our smaller Towns, those that do not have nor can afford professional staffs. We must look to increase our effectiveness and contribution to the larger communities. These Cities are essential to the overall stability and growth of the Region. We must all consider their importance as the cornerstone of the Valley.

We need also an increase in involvement from 1 or 2 less active towns. The MVPC can only be effective regionally if all our communities participate, make a commitment, and appoint contributing, active Commissioners. The reverse is also true and even more significant. A community can only benefit from our full service if it is involved. With this involvement it will learn what we can do, that our goal is truly to assist, and that the MVPC does produce results.

The Commission has invariably attained a quorum at each of its meetings, but my one disappointment as Chairman has been that not all communities have made a full commitment. I urge these cities and towns to consider the MVPC a valuable resource and to participate fully. Further, I ask all member communities to reinforce and strengthen their commitment so that the professional talent and ability of the MVPC can be fully utilized for the benefit of the Region as well as each city or town.

I would like to thank the many active Commissioners for their efforts and input in the last year. Appreciation must also go to our staff for their professional and dedicated contribution to the Agency. Special recognition is due to our new Executive Director, Gaylord Burke. He took over the Agency in difficult times and provided the leadership and ability necessary to overcome the problems and to move forward. The combined efforts and cooperation between all of the above people resulted in a successful year for the MVPC, the Region and, most importantly, our communities.

Lawrence H. Ogden, Chairman

From The Director

It is a pleasure for me to join the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission in what are indeed challenging times for the agency. As the Commission enters its 25th year of service, it is instructive to reflect on the challenges and changes which have occurred in the Valley in the past quarter-century.

In 1959 the area was witnessing a downward trend in its traditional textile and leather industries, and had one of the lower family income level's of the state's metropolitan areas. Now, the Valley has one of the highest average family income level's and the second highest population/employment growth rate of the state's metropolitan areas. In effect, the Valley is experiencing the "Second Industrial Revolution". I believe the Commission played a beneficial role in the area's revitalization by planning for needed public facilities, fostering sound growth, encouraging intermunicipal cooperation and providing technical assistance.

Today, as public sector activities are wrenched to face new budgetary and programmatic realities, the Commission has both the difficult task and the opportunity to forge new directions for itself and for its service to the Valley. It can help local government adjust to the constraints of Proposition 2 1/2 by promoting cost-effective intermunicipal solutions to common problems. It can assist in the planning for renovating public facility infrastructure. It can facilitate new ways of efficiently coordinating regional and local agencies. And, it can evaluate and update its own format and operations to more effectively serve the region.

The Commission is well suited to help communities meet their needs. It has a demonstrated record of service. It has an extraordinarily active and committed group of community representatives who give unstintingly of their time and energy. It has a professional staff diligently effectuating MVPC programs. It has undergone an expansion of its scope and an improvement in its efficiency under Mr. Richard Gladstone, my predecessor as Executive Director. Foremost, the Commission as a whole has a willingness to pursue all opportunities to improve its performance and service to the public.

The Commission has experienced its share of budget cuts and will continue to operate under serious monetary constraints. But, these conditions, of necessity, engender new approaches and I look forward to working with the Commission to find new ways and means of better serving our communities.

Gaylord I. Burke, Exec. Director

Community Representatives

Meetings and Participation

Officers

Lawrence H. Ogden, Chairman
 Glenn Meurer, Vice Chairman
 Fred Gabriel, Vice Chairman (R)
 William E. Slusher, Treasurer
 L. Donald Phillips, Assistant Treasurer
 Edward Irvin, Secretary

Delegates (as of June 30, 1983)

AMESBURY

Todd McGrath
 Joseph Fahey

ANDOVER

Stephen Flashenberg
 Jon Gilmore

GEORGETOWN

Lawrence Ogden
 Robert Bombardieri

GROVELAND

William Slusher
 Kathleen Lenz

HAVERHILL

Salvatore Yemma
 Joseph Bevilacqua

LAWRENCE

John Stundza
 Ronald Landry

MERRIMAC

Bruce MacGregor
 Richard Waterhouse

METHUEN

Richard Gladstone
 Kevin Haggerty
 Colleen Cronin (Resigned)

NEWBURY

Sharon Trefry
 Angelo Machiros

NEWBURYPORT

L. Donald Phillips
 Fred Gabriel

NORTH ANDOVER

Gayton Osgood
 John Burke
 Erich Nitzsche (Resigned)

ROWLEY

Glenn Meurer
 Deborah Streiff

SALISBURY

Edward Irvin
 Charles Keenan
 Ann Carey (Resigned)

WEST NEWBURY

Woodbury Cammett
 June Cook (Resigned)

There were many opportunities for citizens, local officials, and MVPPC Commissioners to participate in a wide variety of issues addressed by the MVPPC. In addition to regular monthly MVPPC meetings, there were many Committee meetings, advisory committee meetings, public hearings, and public presentations.

The great majority of Commission delegates once again proved to be hardworking and faithful attendees at both Commission and Committee meetings. A quorum was achieved at all Commission meetings. A quorum was also achieved at nearly all of more than 50 Committee meetings.

<u>Community</u>	<u>Commission Meetings Represented*</u>
Amesbury	2 of 12
Andover	12 of 12
Georgetown	11 of 12
Groveland	11 of 12
Haverhill	7 of 12
Lawrence**	3 of 12
Merrimac	8 of 12
Methuen	9 of 12
Newbury	11 of 12
Newburyport	9 of 12
North Andover	10 of 12
Rowley	8 of 12
Salisbury	12 of 12
West Newbury	0 of 12

*2 of 12 were Executive Committee Meetings.

**Stundza appointed 3/83

MVPC COMMITTEES

Executive Committee
 Finance Committee
 Personnel Committee
 Program Committee
 A-95 Review Committee
 Bylaws Committee
 Executive Director Search Committee
 Transportation Policy Advisory Group
 Overall Economic Development Program Committee

The Region



Regional Facts 1980

Population	260,893
Housing Units	100,363
Employment	124,220



Transportation

To receive federal or state transportation funds the area must have a certified transportation planning process conducted by a metropolitan planning organization. The MVPC is the lead agency for the planning in the region. The MVPC ensured the process was certified by:

- o preparing the Unified Work Program for the transportation planning undertaken in the MVPC region,
- o preparing a Regional Transportation Plan to identify long range transportation goals and needed improvements in the transportation system,
- o preparing a Transportation Improvement Program for transportation improvements projects scheduled or expected to be implemented in the next five years, and
- o supporting public and local government participation.

The MVPC's Transportation Improvement Program listed 29 projects of the highest priority, which totaled \$21,908,675. Agencies which participate in the transportation planning process include:

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Urban Mass Transportation Administration
Executive Office of Transportation and Construction
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority
Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

HIGHWAY PLANNING

The MVPC conducts highway planning activities in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Works. In addition to supporting the certification process described above, much other highway related planning work was carried out.

Community Guide to Funding Highway Transportation Improvements

This publication describes the various federal and state funding sources and the process by which projects are approved. It was produced for use by local officials and distributed to member communities of MVPC.

Park-and-Ride Lot Feasibility Study

The focus of this work was to evaluate the feasibility and demand for a park-and-ride facility at each of twelve sites presently being used on an ad-hoc basis. Each site was analyzed in terms of location, ownership, size, demand, vehicle access, and proximity to transit service. Four of the most favorable sites identified in the study have been approved by the state for construction, leasing, or future funding.

Intersection Analysis

This study collected data and analyzed existing capacity and safety problems at twenty-two locations throughout the MVPC region. Results of the analyses were used to draw conclusions toward improving safety and traffic flow at the intersections. This was the second of three years of intersection studies.

Amesbury Traffic Study

This traffic circulation study of downtown Amesbury identified existing delays to vehicular travel and examined the possible traffic impacts of the "Millyard" redevelopment. Three alternative improvements to traffic flow were studied. From a traffic flow perspective, the study found that vehicle delays approached serious levels (mainly due to parking and double-parked vehicles), that channelization improvements to Market Square would be worthwhile, that parking within the Market Square intersection should be eliminated, and that High Street should be made one-way or have parking prohibited.

MASS TRANSIT

Newburyport Preliminary Traffic Study

This brief examination of traffic in Newburyport, an increasingly popular waterfront community with very narrow roads, identified existing land use and provided estimates of future traffic loads resulting from downtown revitalization.

Newburyport Travel Time Study

This work determined average travel time during peak and off-peak periods on major access routes to downtown Newburyport. Evaluation of these travel times helped to specify congestion and capacity problems along these routes and at major intersections. This study, conducted during the summer of 1982, is similar to those done for Lawrence and Haverhill in 1981.

Highway Data

MVPC continued to improve the regional data base on highway statistics such as traffic volumes, accidents, and growth generators.

Transportation and Air Quality

During the fiscal year MVPC completed its air quality planning program. In November 1982 the region's Transportation Element of the State Implementation Plan for air quality was published, describing the Valley's air pollution problems, specifically from motor vehicle exhausts, and measures needed to reduce problems identified. The report represented the results of three years of work in cooperation with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, Massachusetts Department of Public Works, and the U.S. Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

Energy Contingency Plan

The region's Energy Contingency Plan for transportation services was updated. The Plan identifies steps that can ameliorate the effects of serious gasoline shortages. Hopefully, the Plan will never be implemented.

Transportation Biennial Report

This report was prepared as an easily readable summary of transportation planning activities in the Valley.

As the principal transit planning agency in the area, MVPC provided extensive assistance to the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) with funds provided by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. Tasks included:

- o carrying out an analysis of MVRTA Fixed-Route User Characteristics which provided information on who uses the bus system
- o preparing a report on MVRTA Fixed-Route Transfers which provided information on bus transfer activity
- o preparing a report on MVRTA Fare Policy which listed principles for setting and changing fares
- o monitoring and evaluating MVRTA fixed route and elderly and handicapped transportation services
- o preparing a report on the feasibility of using a broker to improve coordination of transportation services provided to the elderly and handicapped by a variety of agencies
- o evaluating proposals for the improved transportation of the elderly and handicapped
- o monitoring and analyzing commuter rail service via passenger counts, on-time performance checks, and interviews for passenger origin
- o updating a report on emergency uses of buses
- o developing criteria for prioritizing transit improvement projects.

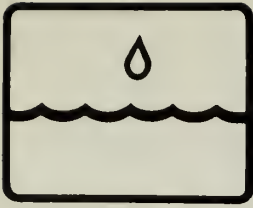
Methuen Commuter Rail Feasibility

In March, 1983 MVPC completed a Methuen commuter rail feasibility study for the MVRTA which provided preliminary analysis of instituting commuter rail service between Methuen and Boston. Alternatives were identified and examined in terms of capital and operating costs, potential ridership/revenue, and feasibility.

The MVRTA asked MVPC to do a more in depth analysis of selected alternatives, including a more detailed look at potential ridership along with an analysis of associated economic impacts. Also, the MVPC began to work closely with the Rockingham County Planning Commission to assess extending the commuter rail line to Salem, New Hampshire to service a new Rockingham Park. The final report will be ready in early 1984.

Microcomputer Funds Awarded

In June of 1983 UMTA announced that highly competed over funds would be awarded to MVPC for the acquisition of microcomputers to further improve and expand planning capabilities. The microcomputers will improve MVPC's technical proficiency and service to member communities.



Environment

The MVPC's Environmental Planning Program provided member communities with a variety of services aimed at enhancing the quality of the region's land and water resources. Major activities and important new undertakings in this regard follow.

Technical Review of Hazardous Waste Facility

Supported by a technical assistance grant from the Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Facility Site Safety Council, MVPC worked in cooperation with the City of Haverhill and abutting communities to complete its evaluation of the environmental and socio-economic impacts of a hazardous waste reprocessing facility proposed for Haverhill's Ward Hill Industrial Park. Numerous concerns were documented by the MVPC and others regarding the applicant's past management practices and the proposed facility's potential adverse impacts on the quality of the Merrimack River. The project was abandoned.

Groveland Well Contamination Study

At the request of the Board of Selectmen, MVPC worked closely with the town's Water Department and consulting engineer to develop background information on the hydrology and water quality of the town's two well contamination sites. This assistance expedited completion of the study and helped to defray costs of the study to the town.

Groveland Gravel Extraction Study

At the request of the Board of Selectmen, MVPC prepared a request for proposal and helped to select a hydrogeologist to evaluate the potential water quality and quantity impacts of a gravel extraction operation located upgradient from the town's municipal wellfield. As a result, a potentially long and costly confrontation between the town, the project proponent, and neighboring property owners was averted, and measures were adopted that will safeguard the public and the environment.

Toxic and Hazardous Substances Control

The MVPC competed against many other agencies to obtain scarce groundwater protection planning funds. With these funds, the MVPC will work with the Towns of Georgetown, Groveland, Newbury, and Rowley to develop locally administered underground fuel storage and hazardous materials regulations. When adopted, these regulations will provide local officials with the means of controlling the use and storage of commercial quantities of gasoline and other toxic chemical compounds which, when improperly handled, can threaten the quality of groundwater.

Oil Spill Contingency Planning

The MVPC neared completion of a project with the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management and Metropolitan Area Planning Council to develop an Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the coastal communities of the upper North Shore (including Salisbury, Newburyport, Rowley and Salisbury). Consisting of descriptions of equipment, response procedures, and personnel, the plan will ensure that all available public and private resources are deployed as rapidly as possible in the event of an offshore spill. The key element in the plan is the creation of Local Response Teams in each coastal community. Comprised of local employees such as harbor masters, shellfish officers, and public works officials, these teams will mobilize both public and private equipment to contain and eliminate oil spills. This is the first time that response procedures will be uniformly organized on the federal, state, and local levels, and will help ensure the protection of productive shellfish flats, fish spawning areas, and other coastal resources.

Coastal Resources Advisory Board

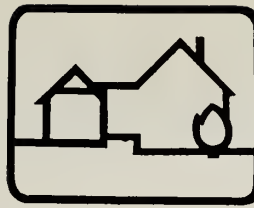
The MVPC continued its participation on the Coastal Resources Advisory Board. Comprised of representatives from a number of private and public interest groups, the Board serves as a counseling body to the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management on matters such as program goals and objectives, community assistance grants, and proposed legislation.

Clean Lakes And Aquifer Grant Applications

At the request of the Georgetown Board of Selectmen, MVPC began preparation of two grant applications to the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering: one to acquire Clean Lakes Program funds to perform diagnostic studies of Pentucket and Rock Ponds, the other to acquire Aquifer Land Acquisition funds to purchase and protect important groundwater recharge areas.

Open Space And Recreation Plans

MVPC assisted four communities in preparing or initiating Local Open Space and Recreation Plans that are required for receiving state and federal recreation/open space funds. A complete plan updating was prepared for Methuen. A complete draft plan was prepared for Rowley. Assistance was provided to the updating of Haverhill's plan. Salisbury was provided with the basic data needed to develop a plan.



Housing

Parker River Watershed Management Planning

In cooperation with the Department of Environmental Management, MVPC continued to provide technical assistance to the Parker River Committee, a multi-community citizen's group working to promote wise use of the Parker River through its designation as a "Scenic River". The Committee examined a variety of physical, biological, and cultural features of the river and its corridor, and developed a draft management plan which: 1) identifies critical resources vulnerable to abuse, and 2) recommends measures, for controlling unsound development. Through the adoption of these measures, the communities will have an opportunity to preserve the rich patchwork of forests, fields, marshes, farm houses, town centers and small mills that make the Parker River an outstanding resource.

Subdivision Review

In response to several requests for assistance from local Planning Boards, the MVPC inspected subdivision sites and engineering plans to evaluate potential construction impacts on neighboring wetlands, streams, and groundwater.

Education

In cooperation with the Massachusetts Audubon Society and Soil Conservation Service, the MVPC co-sponsored regional workshops designed to acquaint health inspectors, Planning Board Members, and other local officials with techniques for evaluating and protecting a soil and water resources.

Hazardous Waste Information Center

Committed to the education of local government, industry, and the general public about the problems of and solution to hazardous waste generation and disposal, the MVPC continued to serve as one of 13 hazardous waste information centers established by the Massachusetts Division of Hazardous Waste.

The Commission's prime strategy for improving housing conditions in the region continued to be directed toward a "fair share" distribution of publicly assisted housing among communities. The past year saw the completion of MVPC's Area-wide Housing Opportunity Plan whereby the MVPC was one of a few agencies in the country to successfully obtain "Bonus" implementation funds through the Areawide Housing Opportunity Plan process.

Despite a substantial decline in housing planning funds, MVPC continued several activities that enhance housing choice throughout the area.

- o A Fair Housing brochure was prepared in both English and Spanish which explained state and federal fair housing requirements for realtors, lending institutions and property owners, and listed agencies which could be contacted to insure compliance.
- o A slide show on housing opportunities in the region was prepared and presented to the public.
- o An Outreach brochure was prepared which listed each community's housing resources and agencies to contact if a family wants to move, location of bus routes, and contact persons if discrimination is encountered.
- o Ten housing projects totaling \$21,674,641 were reviewed and endorsed.
- o Updated interim population projections were prepared for each community.

The MVPC's most substantial housing planning activity was the establishment and operation of a regional housing referral service. Entitled HELPS (Housing for Elderly and Low-income Persons), the service provided information to elderly and low-income persons on where and how to apply for subsidized housing throughout the region as well as private rental opportunities which were updated daily. The private rental search component provided assistance to people in need of immediate housing by maintaining a list of people in need and matching them up with available, affordable housing vacancies obtained through realtors, landlords and the newspapers. Over 200 calls for assistance were received. Of those that participated in the private rental search component, 46% found permanent living quarters as a direct result of vacancy listings provided by MVPC.



Economic Development

The MVPC continued its work in support of an improved regional economy and expanded employment opportunities. These activities ranged from running a regional economic development coordinating committee to providing market data and assistance to developers, to helping communities expand support services and infrastructure.

Development Coordination

The Overall Economic Development Planning Committee, composed of a variety of business and government leaders, was restructured into a more compact entity. Representatives of the State and Federal governments made presentations to the Committee on the status of both old and new economic development incentives. An updated Overall Economic Development Plan was prepared which reflects the most recent economic growth trends in the area. Packets of this information were sent to development offices, realtors, and the business community. The establishment of a regional economic development corporation was also researched.

Market Data

As a regional data center, MVPC continued to provide daily a wide variety of information to developers and market researchers. Especially popular with developers were the MVPC's Industrial Zone Profile, an in-depth listing of all industrial zones in the region, and Community Profiles for 15 municipalities. MVPC also provided informational workshops and distributed bulletins on current and proposed funding programs. An industrial development promotion brochure was also prepared, entitled "Methuen: An Invitation to Industry", which already has been credited with facilitating new development.

Infrastructure Expansion

The MVPC also assisted communities in expanding their industrial infrastructure. Examples follow.

Rowley Community Development Grant Application

Funds were sought from the state's Small Cities Program to extend the town's water supply system to a commercial district on the town's major highway.

Newbury Industrial Site Evaluation

As a follow-up to a preliminary study of a proposed 245 acre industrial site in the Town of Newbury, MVPC examined the water resource characteristics of the site to determine the specific locations most appropriate for industrial development.

Search For Funds For Salisbury Sewer Project

At the request of the Town of Salisbury Board of Selectmen and newly-formed Industrial Development Commission, MVPC researched the availability of funds to finance the construction of a sewer line along the Rabbit Road/Willow Street corridor leading to the site of a proposed industrial and office park.

Site Clearances

MVPC reviewed and supported numerous applications for Industrial Revenue Bonds totaling several million dollars in project costs.

Community Assistance

Extensive assistance was provided by MVPC to each member community on a wide variety of issues. Technical Assistance Bulletins were frequently distributed. Workshops and seminars were conducted on matters of local government concern, such as the well-attended Risk Management Workshop on municipal insurance practices and public official liability. MVPC newsletters were distributed which highlighted recent events of municipal interest. Speakers were arranged for various meetings on timely topics.

The MVPC Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program is the most extensive and popular form of assistance provided to the area's communities. The MVPC annually allocates professional staff time to each community. LTA time can be used by the community to supplement its own planning efforts, to have grant applications written, zoning bylaws updated, subdivision regulations examined, or almost any problem studied. Intercommunity matters may also be addressed through LTA, such as regional cooperative purchasing. All communities in the region benefit from this program, particularly those without full time planning personnel, as they can use their LTA time to study problems they would otherwise be unable to address.

LTA activity during Fiscal Year 1983 included:

Amesbury

Community Profile
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980
Sign By-Law

Andover

Community Profile
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980
Potential for Cooperative Purchasing

Georgetown

Community Development Block Grant Application
Community Profile
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980
Assessment of Community Needs

Groveland

Hydrogeologic Analysis of Polluted Wells
Research on the Implications of E.O. 215
Community Profile
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980
Investigation of DEQE Funding Sources

Haverhill

Community Profile
Assistance in Updating of Recreation Plan
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980
Haverhill Census Report

Lawrence

Potential for Cooperative Purchasing
Community Profile
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980

Merrimac

Community Development Block Grant Application
Community Profile
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980
Woodland Village Transcription
Industrial Site Identification Report

Methuen

Industrial Development Brochure
Community Profile
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980
Community Development Block Grant Application assistance
Environmental Review
Potential for Cooperative Purchasing

Newbury

Elderly Housing Project assistance
Water Quality Sampling
Community Profile
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980
Site Feasibility Analysis
Environmental Impact Evaluation
Parker River Management Plan

Newburyport

Community Profile
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980
Traffic Circulation Study
Traffic Counts

North Andover

Community Profile
Traffic Study
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980
Library Census
Assistance on Affirmative Action Needs

Rowley

Community Profile
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980
Community Development Block Grant Application

Salisbury

Community Profile
Open Space Plan assistance
Funding Sources for Industrial Parks
Drainage Problem Review

West Newbury

Zoning Bylaw Review
Subdivision Regulations Review
Community Profile
Summary of Census Data for 1950-1980
Open Space Plan assistance

Clearinghouse Reviews

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission is a state and federally designated clearinghouse empowered to review proposals for Federal funds (A-95), Industrial Revenue Bonds (Chapter 40D), Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (Chapter 132A), Long Range State Capital Planning and Budget Requests (Chapter 29), local Zoning amendments (Chapter 808) and Environmental Impact Statements and Reports (Chapter 62).

During Fiscal Year 83 the MVPC reviewed 87 such proposals totaling \$75 million in project costs. Clearinghouse reviews are conducted to insure potential projects do not overlap or duplicate one another, are consistent with regional and local concerns, and constitute efficient solutions to problems. All local governments are provided information and opportunity to comment on MVPC clearinghouse reviews. Recently, the federal government delegated much of its review responsibility to state governments. The MVPC is in the process of establishing a revised review procedure which will be coordinated by the state.

Data Center

The Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce, in concert with the Massachusetts Center for Data, has designated MVPC as a Massachusetts Affiliate Data Center. As an affiliate Data Center, MVPC has much federal and state census information, including unpublished data.

In addition to being a census data center, the MVPC maintains many other type of information, such as:

- o Employment Data
- o Birth and Death Statistics
- o Building and Demolition Permit Data
- o Journey-to-Work Statistics
- o Maps of the Region and each Community
- o Environmental Data and Maps
- o Local, Regional, State and Federal Reports

This information is available to member cities and towns, citizens, consultants, developers and the business community

Finance

Total revenues and expenses were down substantially, -25% from FY1982 to FY1983, a continuation of recent trends due to Federal cutbacks and "Proposition 2 1/2". Administratively, the challenge of a shrinking budget was met as the MVPC's finances once again finished the year in the black with a modest increase in the fund balance. The MVPC is also pleased to report that the year-end audit contained no "findings". However, the rapidly diminishing budget has resulted in a reduced staff and the loss of MVPC expertise in some fields. Moreover, only 20% of MVPC's budget is secure and derived from community assessments; all other funds are obtained through grants and contracts, a highly variable and declining source of income. The Commission can and has responded well to a leaner budget, but the continually uncertain status of programs impacts operational stability and delivery of services.

AUDITED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

<u>REVENUE SOURCES</u>		<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Housing and Urban Development	\$ 9,487	Direct Salaries	\$135,031
Urban Mass Transportation Administration	53,010	Direct Fringe Benefits	24,402
Massachusetts Department of Public Works	91,736	Indirect Salaries & Costs	131,476
Massachusetts Executive Office for Environmental Affairs	3,586	Printing & Special Supplies	7,138
Economic Development Administration	56,281	Travel	2,234
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management	4,987	In-Kind Services	2,241
Local Contracts	26,966	Consultants	1,037
Local Assessments	62,474	Outside Labor	-0-
Other Local Revenues	3,410	Meeting Expense	382
		Other Direct Costs	919
		Local Expenditures	2,288

	311,937	Total	\$307,148

Non-Cash Revenues	2,241	Excess of Resources over Expenditures	\$ 7,030

Total Revenues	\$314,178		

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Staff

Current Staff

Gaylord Burke, Executive Director
R. Jeffrey Riotte, Sr. Program Manager
Alan Macintosh, Program Manager
Sharon Ruocco, Administrative Assistant
Thomas Rossi, Sr. Planner
Shawn Holland, Sr. Planner
Anthony Kormonick, Sr. Planner
Paul Laponius, Planner
Robert Tassinari, Planner
Eric Waaramaa, Planner
Anne Verret-Speck, Accountant
Cynthia Hegh, Secretary

Previous Contributing Staff

Richard Gladstone, Executive Director
Dorothy Altman, Program Manager
Paul Hajec, Program Manager
Cheryl Breen, Sr. Planner
Alexander Harris, Sr. Planner
David Koven, Sr. Planner
Frank Sylvis, Sr. Planner
Linda Sloss, Planner
Vail Pagliarani, Planner/Cartographer
Melinda McPhee, Secretary
Dianne O'Neil, Secretary

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Annual Report

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission
July 1980-June 1981

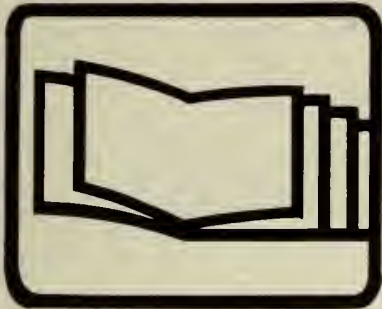


GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

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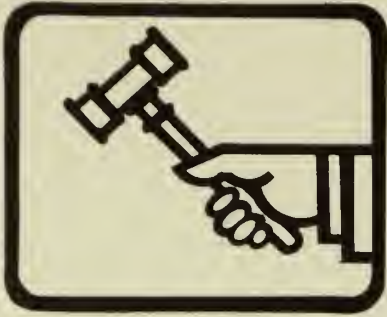
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A Letter from the Chairman



This has been a very difficult and challenging year for the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. Discontinued Federal support for many of the efforts of the commission has seriously impacted on our region. Fortunately, the staff and commissioners have been working hard to deal with this challenge, and to a large degree, rather successfully.

Efforts to bring the cities and towns of the region together to seek shared solutions to many of our problems is continuing. The involvement recently of local town managers in meeting together, I believe is a significant step. I am hopeful that the near future will demonstrate the many similarities and needs and at the same time reduce local costs in areas such as purchasing, personnel recruitment, and computer time.

While we have begun to shift our focus, we have not abandoned our more traditional roles of regional solutions to our problems. Programs such as Economic Development and others will continue for as long as possible. The quality of our transportation efforts, both in planning and evaluation, has continued and to some degree, the responsibilities have been expanded this year. I have been impressed with the commitment of all the staff, particularly this year, to continue and maintain their current responsibilities, while at the same time, assisting the commissioners in establishing a new direction.

Changes have also occurred in staffing and this has been the most difficult responsibility, since I began my involvement with the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. Decisions have been made that were not easy and I know will cause hardship. With other commissioners and staff, we have tried to balance the existing needs of the commission with the future needs as we can best predict them. It is particularly difficult when dealing

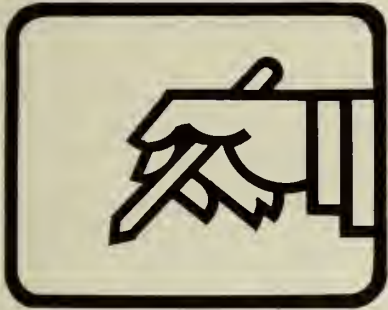
with a staff of such professional and highly qualified people. To those that will be leaving for new opportunities, please accept my thanks for your previous contributions and best wishes for your future.

The last change I would like to gratefully acknowledge is that of our new office space. The past months at our office were intolerable, at best. No professional organization should have to work under conditions that existed. Our new offices are bright and sunny, and more accurately reflect the quality of those associated with the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. I want to thank our friends and colleagues through the Valley who joined us at our open house last May, to see our new offices.

Finally, as my term as chairman draws to a close, I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen and town manager in Andover for allowing me the opportunity to represent their community. The commissioners of our region have demonstrated the willingness to care about our future and try to contribute to that future. Their support and integrity are to be commended. The staff of the commission also deserves particularly high praise for their efforts this past year. Given the turmoil and indecision that existed at the national level, the problems of space and numerous daily distractions, their level of commitment and professionalism never suffered. I am proud to have been associated with each of you.

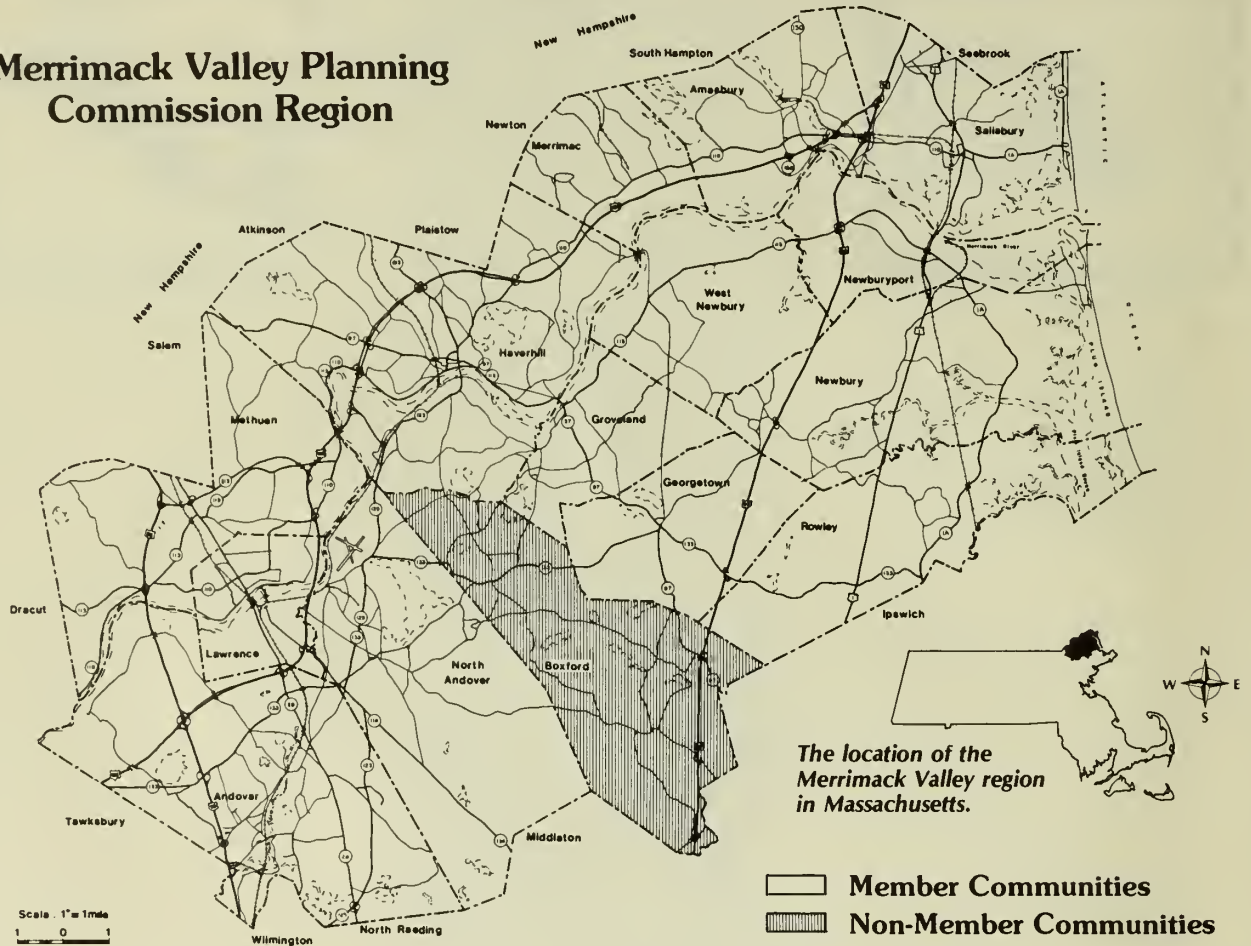
I am confident that the future will be bright for the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. We have set on a new direction, to work more closely with our cities and towns, to continue our joint efforts of regional problem solving, and to advocate for the beautiful and scenic area's continued growth. In these efforts I am confident that we will succeed.

Director's Report



In last year's Annual Report I discussed the impact of the election of President Reagan at the Federal level and the passage of Proposition 2½ here in Massachusetts. Much of what I predicted then has come to fruition. All of us are being forced to "make do" with far less monies than ever before. For example, our fiscal 1982 budget totalled approximately \$450,000 while our Fiscal 1983 budget will be approximately \$250,000. Like so many other agencies at all levels, we are being forced to lay off good staff members because of cut backs in Federal funds and Proposition 2½. While this layoff process has been particularly painful to me and those being laid off there is a bright side of this bleak picture. These cutbacks have forced the Commission and its staff to do some long needed soul searching. As a result of this process we are re-orienting the MVPC toward the local level more than we have ever done in our history. The obvious result is that our member communities will benefit by being able to call on us for more direct assistance than we have been able to provide heretofore. In our retrenchment process I will be able to keep the very best of a staff that generally has been acknowledged as one of the better ones in New England. Simply, this means that the MVPC will be able to continue to serve our member communities at a high level of service. Our major emphasis in the coming year will be to continue to find ways to save our members money through cooperative ventures of all types. We all face this challenge with optimism.

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Region



Staff Liaisons

Amesbury	Susan Marshall/David Koven
Andover	Kathleen Bartolini/Vicki Carr
Boxford	Paul Laponius
Georgetown	Vail Pagliarani
Groveland	James Heidell/Gary Mongeon
Haverhill	Frank Sylvis
Lawrence	Paul Hajec
Merrimac	Dorothy Altman/Joseph Aiello
Methuen	Karen Pollastrino
Newbury	Richard Gladstone
Newburyport	Cheryl Breen
North Andover	R. Jeffrey Riotte
Rowley	Alan Macintosh
Salisbury	Richard Gladstone/Dorothy Altman
West Newbury	Alex Harris

OFFICERS

George S. Moran, Chairman
Fred Gabriel, Vice Chairman
William E. Slusher, Treasurer
Donald Phillips, Assistant Treasurer
Frank Romano, Assistant Treasurer (R)
June Cook, Assistant Treasurer (R)
Edward Irvin, Secretary
Donald Shea, Secretary (R)

AMESBURY

Wendell Jenkins
Cynthia Lemieux (R)
Joseph Fahey

ANDOVER

George S. Moran
Paul Teplitz

GEORGETOWN

Lawrence Ogden
Holly Haller

GROVELAND

William Slusher
Kathleen Lenz

HAVERHILL

Salvatore Yemma
Joseph Revilacqua
Richard Spinin (R)

Community Representatives

LAWRENCE

David Lenihan
Ronald Landry

MERRIMAC

Arthur Evans
Richard Waterhouse

METHUEN

Colleen Cronin
Kevin Haggerty (R)
Donald Shea (R)
Kevin Haggerty

NEWBURY

Curtis Walton
John O'Connell

NEWBURYPORT

Fred Gabriel
L. Donald Phillips

NORTH ANDOVER

Erich Nitzsche
John Burke (R)
John Monteiro (R)
Gayton Osgood

ROWLEY

Glenn Meurer
Deborah Streiff
Frank Romano (R)

SALISBURY

Edward Irvin
Ann Carey

WEST NEWBURY

June Cook
Woodbury Cammett
John Poppewell (R)

R = Resigned

Alternate in italics

Community Assistance

The MVPC is concerned not only with the Merrimack Valley as a whole, but also with each individual community. In order to maintain and promote the Merrimack Valley as a desirable place in which to live, work, and plan, projects must be undertaken at the local, as well as at the regional level. To achieve this end, the MVPC provides a variety of assistance to member communities.

LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The MVPC annually allocates 80 hours of professional technical assistance to each community. This Local Technical Assistance (LTA) time can be used by the community to supplement its own planning efforts, to have grant applications written, zoning bylaws updated, subdivision regulations examined, or almost any problem studied.

All communities in the region benefit from this program, particularly those without full time planning personnel, as they can use their LTA time to study problems they would otherwise be unable to address.

Major projects completed under the LTA program during Fiscal Year 1980 included the following:

AMESBURY
Zoning Bylaw Changes
Census Change for Master Plan

GEORGETOWN

CDBG Pre-application
Urban Systems Grant
Cluster Zoning

GROVELAND

Pines Recreation Study

HAVERHILL

Haverhill Growth Alliance
Haverhill Community Development

METHUEN

CDC Formation
Management Workplan
Lump Sum Drawdown

NORTH ANDOVER

CDBG Pre-application
Site Evaluation (Public Housing)

ROWLEY

Update MVPC Land Use Map
Funding Sources

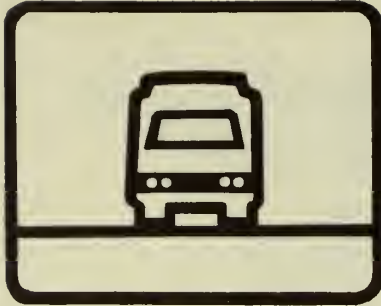
SALISBURY

Review of Protective Bylaws
Addition to Subdivision Control
Research funds for pier and cul-de-sac

WEST NEWBURY

Chapter 667

Transportation



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

One of the ways that the MVPC serves its member communities is through its involvement in various transportation planning activities. The purpose of the transportation planning program is to develop an efficient, safe, and cost-effective regional transportation system. Transportation planning at the MVPC focuses on two general subject areas: transit planning and highway planning and management. Both programs are coordinated through various governmental agencies. Within the past year, the MVPC has also been involved in a cooperative effort to develop local, regional, and statewide approaches to reduce mobile source air pollution. Work on this program has been integrated with the aforementioned transit and highway planning activities.

Primary funding sources for the transportation planning program are the Massachusetts Department of Public Works and the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (U.S. Department of Transportation). The MVPC is under contract to both agencies to perform transportation planning for the region.

THE "3C" PLANNING PROCESS

The MVPC's transportation planning program must be deemed acceptable both to the federal and to the state governments in order for the region to receive funding for various projects. The planning process must be comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous throughout the region. This is known as the "3C" planning process.

COMPREHENSIVE - The transportation planning process should consider all modes of transportation and must be consistent with regional growth and development policies. Land use, socio-economic, and environmental concerns should all be addressed in the work effort.

COOPERATIVE - Planning activities must synthesize local and regional needs with

state and federal policies.

CONTINUOUS - The planning process must be dynamic. It should adjust to changes in local and regional priorities. The 3C process is the framework within which all MVPC transportation planning activities are conducted.

MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT OF THE "3C" PROCESS

The MVPC staff provides technical and administrative support to the 3C planning process. The methods used to provide this support are as follows:

- (a) Support of the Transportation Policy Advisory Group - Meetings are held to foster public involvement in the planning process.
- (b) Development of a Unified Work Program - This document describes all activities to be performed under existing contracts.
- (c) Development of a Prospectus - This document describes completed and anticipated work tasks for a five-year period.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Transportation Plan for the MVPC region consists of two parts: the Long Range Element (LRE) and the Transportation Systems Management Element (TSME). The LRE defines the long-range transportation goals and projects planned for the region. The TSME coordinates local transportation projects through the identification and implementation of short-term improvements.

In order to be in accordance with the 3C process, the Transportation Plan should be consistent with land use patterns and the socio-economic, environmental, and energy conservation goals of the region. The Plan is reviewed annually to ensure that it is responsive to changes in any

of these goals and policies.

The 1982 Plan is unique in that it is a total rewrite of the previous document. This type of revision was necessary for two reasons. First, various studies conducted by the MVPC identified needs that were not being addressed in the 1981 Transportation Plan. Also, a series of new transportation policies had been enacted and were not accounted for in the 1981 document. Accordingly a "new" Transportation Plan was written which completely changed the philosophy, direction, and format of previous efforts.

SPECIAL STUDIES

Work on special studies is an ongoing activity of the transportation program. During the past year, the staff completed work on both a Travel Time Study and a Vehicle Occupancy Study, for the Lawrence-Haverhill Urbanized Area. An Energy Contingency Planning Study was also completed during this time.

The main purpose of the Travel Time Study was to determine average peak and off-peak travel times on major access routes to the Lawrence and Haverhill downtown districts. An evaluation of travel times for each study route was used to identify congestion problems on roadway segments as well as at intersections. Those locations found to be experiencing congestion problems were noted for possible future study.

The main purpose of the Vehicle Occupancy Study was to determine average peak and off-peak occupancy rates for vehicles commuting to the study area. The results of this work showed that the Lawrence-Haverhill Urbanized Area compared favorably with the material averages for vehicle occupancy. Thus, these results indicate that this region has at least mildly responded to the promotion of ridesharing programs. Nevertheless, significant promotional efforts

must be continued in order for vehicle occupancy levels to remain above the national averages.

The Energy Contingency Planning Study focused on methods of incorporating increased use of mass transit service and/or park and ride facilities into the journey-to-work trip. The study found that neither bus companies nor major employers are overly concerned about possible fuel shortages. It would be difficult to convince these groups to adopt an energy contingency plan. Therefore, if and when fuel shortages occur, the state will need to make major policy decisions regarding fuel priorities and use of transit vehicles.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

The Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP, represents one link in the Transportation Planning Process in the Merrimack Valley region. It is by design a program for the continual improvement of the region's transportation networks. It is a comprehensive overview of all existing, planned, proposed or completed projects within the region.

Each year this program is subjected to a complete updating. Communities are asked to submit their plans for any new projects, and they are asked to provide information on the status of existing projects. This cooperative function between the MVPC and member communities assures that the region in total is kept informed of all activities.

This TIP provides a comprehensive overview of all projects in the Merrimack Valley region. It is an example of the continuing planning that goes on in the region, and it illustrates the cooperation that exists between the MVPC and member communities.

The projects in the TIP are reviewed for their impacts on regional air quality. The review is part of the process

to insure consistency with the MVPC's air quality work program and the air quality improvement goals in the Section 175 air quality planning program.

AIR QUALITY

The 1970 Clean Air Act directed the Environmental Protection Agency to establish air quality standards which would protect human health and minimize damage to vegetation and property. Along with the standards, to be attained by 1987, EPA directed each state to develop programs to monitor progress toward achieving those standards. As a result, the Governor designated the MVPC as this region's lead agency for reducing mobile source air pollution. MVPC has been involved in a coordinated effort with the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, the Department of Public Works, and the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction to develop local, regional, and state-wide approaches to help meet the impending standards. Work during the past year involved detailed analysis of Reasonable Control Measures (RACM's).

RACM's are methods for reducing air polluting emissions from mobile sources (autos and trucks primarily). These analyzed measures will be implemented between 1982 and 1987 and will contribute to the reduction of air pollution in the region.

TRANSIT PLANNING

During 1981, in cooperation with the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA), the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC), continued its role as the principal transit planning agency for the region. Transit planning activities which were undertaken included;

- the ongoing Bus Service Monitoring and Evaluation Study
- the Telephone Information Service Study, which recommended the most feasible method for

providing telephone information service to the MVRTA customers.

- the ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation of Elderly and Handicapped Service.

- the Update of the Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Plan

- the Impact Study to determine the effects of school children ridership on the Lawrence Area Bus System.

- the Commuter Rail Service Evaluation Study.

- the Energy Contingency Planning Program.

- the Paratransit Alternative Study.

- the Feasibility Study of Alternative Transportation Services to Commuter Rail/Bus Stations.

- the Identification of Travel Patterns in the MVRTA Service Area.

- the Matching of Highest Travel Demand Patterns with Public Transit Service.

TRANSIT SERVICE

Under the auspices of the MVRTA, Haverhill has been receiving fixed route bus service since October 1975, Lawrence, Methuen, and North Andover have been receiving service since November 1977. Andover began receiving service in 1978.

The map of the Greater Lawrence and Haverhill area opposite, shows the area presently being served by the MVRTA.

RECENT TRANSIT SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

New buses in the Haverhill and Lawrence system:

The Haverhill portion of the MVRTA added five new buses in April of 1980 to service their six city routes and one intercity (Haverhill to Lawrence) route. The vehicles are smaller and more maneuverable. In Lawrence seven new buses were added. They are of the "Advance Design" variety and are equipped with a "lift" option for wheelchair users and a "kneeling" option for those people who have limited abilities for boarding buses. In addition, five remanufactured buses have been added to the Haverhill fleet and ten were added in Lawrence.

Doubling of peak-hour bus service in Haverhill and Lawrence:

Peak hour service is now available in both the Haverhill and Lawrence Area systems. Peak hour service is considered to be between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. and between 3:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. It was doubled in order to properly serve the Region's populace and facilitate commuters in getting to their place of employment. This service will continue to be monitored for it's performance and to see whether further schedule changes are necessitated.

Demand-responsive service in Andover, Methuen, and Greater Lawrence area:

Under the auspices of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority, Weebus transportation is now available to any resident of Andover and Methuen who is transportation handicapped, regardless of age, and to those residents who are sixty years of age and over who find it difficult to use or do not have access to available MVRTA regular route service. Transportation is

provided within the Town of Andover and the City known as the Town of Methuen, as well as between any other Greater Lawrence city or town (Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover).

The completion of a Transit Station in Haverhill's Washington Square:

The new facility acts as a transfer station for riders wanting to access the Lawrence Area System via the intercity route which runs between Haverhill and Lawrence. In addition, the Transfer Station acts as an information center for both systems.

Centralized management for the Haverhill and Lawrence Area System:

The entire MVRTA System is now being managed (operations management) by Management Resources Limited (MRL). All buses are now being dispatched and garaged at the Bradford facility.

SCHEDULED TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS

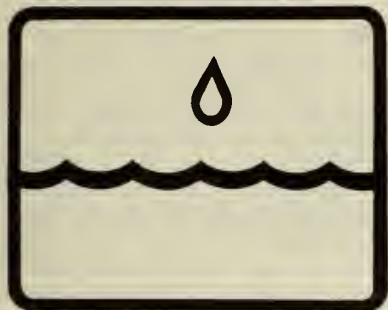
Upgrading of the MVRTA's garage facility and offices:

The Management Resources Limited offices and garage facility are scheduled to be upgraded and modernized. The facility will also accommodate the MVRTA Administrative Offices which are presently located in downtown Haverhill.

Shuttle bus service in downtown Lawrence:

As part of the Lawrence downtown revitalization effort, a shuttle bus system has been planned. The MVRTA has purchased four buses which will provide public transportation for the downtown area. The buses will operate on an Essex Street-Common Street Loop. Bus stops and shelters will be located at key points to provide pedestrian access to the shuttle system.

Water Quality



Balanced use and protection of the region's land and water resources continued to be the focus of the Water Quality Program. Major accomplishments and important new undertakings included the following:

- 1) Completion of a sanitary survey to assess the feasibility of reestablishing a seasonal shellfish harvest in the Merrimack River Estuary.
- 2) Initiation of a groundwater protection/hazardous waste management program for the region's small, non-sewered communities dependent on groundwater.
- 3) Design of an outdoor recreation site for the Town of Groveland.
- 4) Evaluation of the problems of unlawful septage transport and disposal in the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border communities.
- 5) Development of a open space/recreation plan for the Town of Rowley.
- 6) Participation on Coastal Resources Advisory Board.
- 7) Environmental assessment of local development activities.

SHELLFISH SURVEY

With funding from the Office of Coastal Zone Management and the assistance of individuals from Newburyport, Salisbury and several state agencies, the MVPC performed an intensive survey of sanitary conditions in the Merrimack River Estuary and tributaries. The survey included regular sampling of the river and shellfish, an investigation of shoreline pollution sources, assessment of the density and distribution of the estuary's soft shell clam resource, and evaluation of the operating efficiencies and water quality impacts of local and upstream sewage treatment plants. As a result of the survey, several productive shellfish flats were redesignated as meeting seasonal-restricted area criteria, and were reopened for harvest for the first time in almost fifty years.

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION/HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

The MVPC has received \$34,038 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to further implement the region's 208 Water Quality Planning Program. The focus of this year's activities will be the closely related issues of groundwater protection and hazardous waste management. Program activities will be directed generally toward the region's small, non-sewered communities which rely substantially on municipal sources of groundwater.

Presently, a number of groundwater supplies have been given little, if any, protection. Communities which lack control over potential pollution sources expose their water supplies to contamination from a range of activities such as subsurface gasoline storage, road salt storage, and hazardous materials storage and disposal.

In order to assist communities in providing significantly more protection to their water supplies, the MVPC will be working to establish "Groundwater Supply Protection Districts" which will be mapped as an overlay to existing zoning maps. In conjunction with the mapping, groundwater supply protection bylaws will be suggested to regulate and restrict activities deemed harmful.

The hazardous waste management component of the program will be geared toward helping local officials to effectively manage the storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials and to respond appropriately to hazardous waste incidents. To accomplish this, the MVPC will perform a survey of the hazardous materials used by businesses in the communities and will present a model filing system, by-law, and regulations to better manage hazardous materials on a local basis.

RECREATION SITE DESIGN

The MVPC, through its Local Technical Assistance Program, worked with the Town of Groveland to design a recreation area on Town land along the Merrimack River. The MVPC coordinated the efforts of the Groveland Recreation Commission and with assistance from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, prepared three preliminary development options for the site. The plans suggested for the area ranged from totally passive recreation to a combination of passive and active recreation, and included: a softball field, tennis courts, a basketball court, and a tot lot. Picnic tables, a jogging/walking path, and all necessary landscaping were also presented. Through a cooperative effort, the plans provided recreational opportunities, as well as control of soil erosion and protection of water quality in the Merrimack River.

INTERSTATE SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT

In cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, local treatment plant officials, and area septage haulers, the MVPC examined current septage disposal practices and constraints to proper septage management in the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border communities. Among the problems identified were inconsistent (and often burdensome) state and local regulations and the lack of authorized disposal facilities. The excessive haul distances created by the latter were found to be forcing legitimate haulers to charge high customer service fees, placing them at a competitive disadvantage with those who chose to flaunt the law by disposing their waste loads illegally. Through careful documentation of the extent of the problem and active participation in the deliberations of the state Septage Task Force, the MVPC

was instrumental in developing a revised septage policy that eliminates unnecessary regulations and encourages the establishment of a series of small-scale, low-cost disposal facilities.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

The MVPC is continuing to work with the Town of Rowley to prepare a comprehensive open space and recreation plan. Originally begun under the local technical assistance program, the MVPC has already performed a residents preference survey and has worked with the Rowley Recreation Commission to develop future goals and objectives, as well as a five-year implementation schedule. The MVPC is now coordinating the final stages of the plan's preparation including, descriptions and mapping of the Town's open space and recreation areas, analysis of survey results, and scheduling of public review meetings. Should federal or state funding become available, the MVPC will be able to assist Rowley in securing monies to implement the plan.

COASTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD

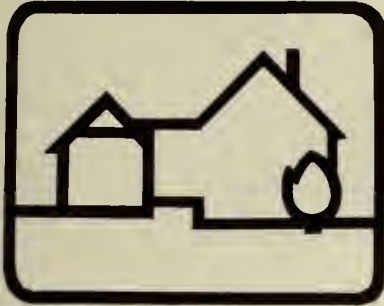
The MVPC continued its participation on the Coastal Resources Advisory Board (CRAB). The CRAB is composed of representatives from a number of private and public interest groups and serves as a counseling body to the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. The CRAB assists CZM in implementing a number of policies which form the State's environmental management plan for coastal resources. The CRAB meets on a monthly basis to make recommendations to CZM staff on program goals and objectives, community assistance grants, and proposed legislation. The involvement of CRAB members helps promote reasonable development of coastal assets and protection of fragile natural resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

At the request of the Rowley Conservation Commission, the MVPC examined the plans and site for a proposed mini-mall at the Route 1/Route 133 junction, near one of the town's two water supply wells. On the basis of the concerns voiced by the MVPC and others regarding potential pollution from septic system leachate and stormwater runoff, several key revisions to the plans were called for by the state regulatory agency, including a reduction in the area to be rendered impervious and the periodic monitoring of groundwater quality between the proposed mall and well site.

In an effort to educate local government, industry, and the general public about the growing problem of hazardous waste generation and disposal, the MVPC has agreed to serve as one of the hazardous waste information centers that the Massachusetts Division of Hazardous Waste (DHW) has established across the State. The centers are part of the DHW's public participation program to assure that local businessmen and citizens have sufficient information to make reasonable decisions on important issues such as hazardous waste legislation and disposal facilities siting. The MVPC center houses a central file of information relating to hazardous waste management issues, specific reports pertaining to new and proposed regulations, and copies of the DHW's newsletter Hazardous Waste Update. Materials are available for review during MVPC office hours.

Housing



During FY'81, the MVPC staff continued to implement the Areawide Housing Opportunity Plan (AHOP) and initiated two new programs - the Rural Town Technical Assistance Project (funded through the Farmers Home Administration), and the New Horizons Program (based on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Housing and Urban Development).

Through technical assistance to local housing authorities and non-profit sponsors, the MVPC was instrumental in securing over 200 units of low- and moderate-income housing for the region. In addition, staff helped local governments and housing authorities apply for rehabilitation and rental assistance funds.

In response to two HUD NOFAs, (Notification of Fund Availability) under the AHOP program, the MVPC received and ranked Section 8 housing proposals. During the first round, no proposals were approved. HUD did approve two sites (Groveland and Methuen) during the second funding round; however, neither project was funded due to a lack of Section 8 monies.

Staff spent considerable time investigating and disseminating information about funding sources for a variety of housing and community development projects. Other housing activities included preparing multi-year project lists for each member community's community development needs; updating land use maps; sponsoring a "mobility" training session for area housing authorities; and analyzing development costs associated with subdivision regulations.

Through the 701-funded Analysis of Water Resources, the MVPC increased public awareness of the finite nature of the region's water supply. Also, this study assessed current and potential water

exchanges between communities (especially during emergencies like the 1978 contamination of Groveland's two wells).

FARMERS HOME/RURAL TOWN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Under the Farmers Home Administration Technical Assistance Project, staff worked closely with local boards and citizens in our seven rural towns. The MVPC collected data, and began formulating housing and economic development "strategies."

Specific activities included preparing a joint Chapter 667-Chapter 705 application (elderly/family housing and commercial space) for the Georgetown Housing Authority; initiating a comprehensive study of Merrimac Square; and writing Chapter 121B planning applications for a parking lot in Georgetown's downtown and road reconstruction in Groveland Square.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The MVPC successfully managed two Community Development Block Grant programs (Groveland's well and the Georgetown Lake Shores project). In addition, we continued our technical assistance role in preparing CDBG applications (N. Andover) and helping communities establish well-run programs. For instance, staff developed a lump sum drawdown agreement to "stretch" Methuen's CDBG rehabilitation monies and compiled a manual of rehabilitation policies and procedures.

In preparation for state-assumption of the Small Cities CDBG program, the Executive Director, became a member of the Executive Office of Communities and Development's CDBG Advisory Task Force. Mr. Gladstone's involvement provides a regional/local voice at the state level to ensure EOCD's program regulations conform to local realities.

Economic Development Administration



On October 1, 1980, MVPC began working on the agency's first grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in the U.S. Department of Commerce. An Overall Economic Development Program Committee (OEDP) was formed and began meeting on the first Thursday of each month, beginning in November.

THE OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The OEDP, a document which assesses the district and its economy, as well as the potential for economic development and a plan for how to develop the region to its potential, underwent a major revision during the first year. Included were proposed development projects (ranked by priority), which if funded, would benefit the region in terms of economic development and jobs.

INDUSTRIAL ZONE INVENTORY

Staff began compiling an inventory and maps, by community, of each industrial zone. Detailed maps of industrial parks were prepared. Inventories included information on access, utilities, ownership, occupant and vacant sites.

A summary map of industrial sites available in MVPC communities and a contact person in each community was published in the New England Real Estate Journal.

SPECIAL PROJECT

The economic development staff prepared a report for the City of Haverhill, assessing the feasibility of developing a parcel of land, zoned for industry, as an industrial park. The study included the market feasibility of an industrial park at that location, and the cost-benefit of developing the site.

Public Participation

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission has developed a very active citizen participation program. Each MVPC major program involves an advisory or coordinating committee. For example, the Housing Task Force, formed during the preparation of the Housing Element, was instrumental in developing the AHOP. Unless a separate advisory/working committee is formed, the Task Force will provide direction on the New Horizons project.

The 93-member Task Force is composed of representatives of local housing authorities, Councils on Aging, social service/welfare agencies, planning departments, realtors, Chambers of Commerce, neighborhood associations, Easter Seal Society, transit authority, League of Women Voters, and "interested citizens." In addition, a New Horizon Task Force will be formed to include representatives of fair housing groups, financial institutions and the real estate industry.

Citizen participation - Local input is a major focus of the Farmers Home Administration project. In each rural (under 10,000 population) community, a planning committee(s) is currently being formed. These committees will be composed of Selectmen, Planning Board representatives, housing authority members, industrial development people, the local Chamber of Commerce and citizens. The committees will assist MVPC staff in data collection, needs assessment, site evaluation, establishing criteria, and ranking potential housing/industrial sites.

Other formal advisory boards are the Transportation Policy Advisory Group and the 208 Policy Advisory Committee. Citizen participation is also institutionalized through the OEDP Committee which assists the EDA staff in plan formulation.

Public involvement in transportation planning is important to ensure that the process is responsive to community needs. All transportation planning programs at the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission include an effort to encourage and solicit citizen involvement.

One avenue for citizen participation is through the Transportation Policy Advisory Group (TPAG). The principal function of the group is to make policy recommendations to the transportation staff of the MVPC and to the Commission. Members of the group include appointed delegates from each city or town in the region as well as any interested citizens.

Residents of the MVPC region are also encouraged to participate in the planning process by joining task forces and other special committees. The purpose of these groups is to assist the transportation staff in developing plans and projects which are responsive to the region's needs and desires. Involvement in a task force or a committee does not require a large time commitment - only a few evenings a year are necessary.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

TPAG Meetings. Quarterly meetings were held to review transportation planning documents and to discuss the MVPC's transportation program.

Transportation of the Elderly and Handicapped. A task force met regularly to assist in developing plans which would make the region's transit system more accessible to these special interest groups. Special meetings were also held in an effort to increase public awareness of this issue.

Air Quality. A task force met several times to assist the MVPC in selecting appropriate

strategies for reducing air pollution. Also, many other activities were undertaken in an attempt to publicize the potential benefits of the air quality program.

Since its inception, the MVPC's Water Quality Program has made public participation an integral part of program activities. This participation has been achieved through a variety of mechanisms, including the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC); informational meetings, workshops, and special events; technical assistance brochures and manuals; newspaper, radio, and MVPC newsletter releases; slide shows; and portable visual displays. Of these, perhaps the single most important and effective is the PAC, a group of federal, state, and local representatives who meet on a regular basis to direct and review the agency's water quality planning efforts. The local representatives include planning board and conservation commission members, health agents, sewer and water officials, and treatment plant superintendents, and are a particularly important part of the Committee because of their strong understanding of and commitment to local water resource issues.

Approaches, such as the widespread dissemination of technical assistance bulletins (e.g., septic system maintenance and water conservation brochures) are also important public education activities since they provide the region's citizens with the kinds of practical, everyday information needed to make wise use of their water supply and wastewater treatment systems.

A-95 Review

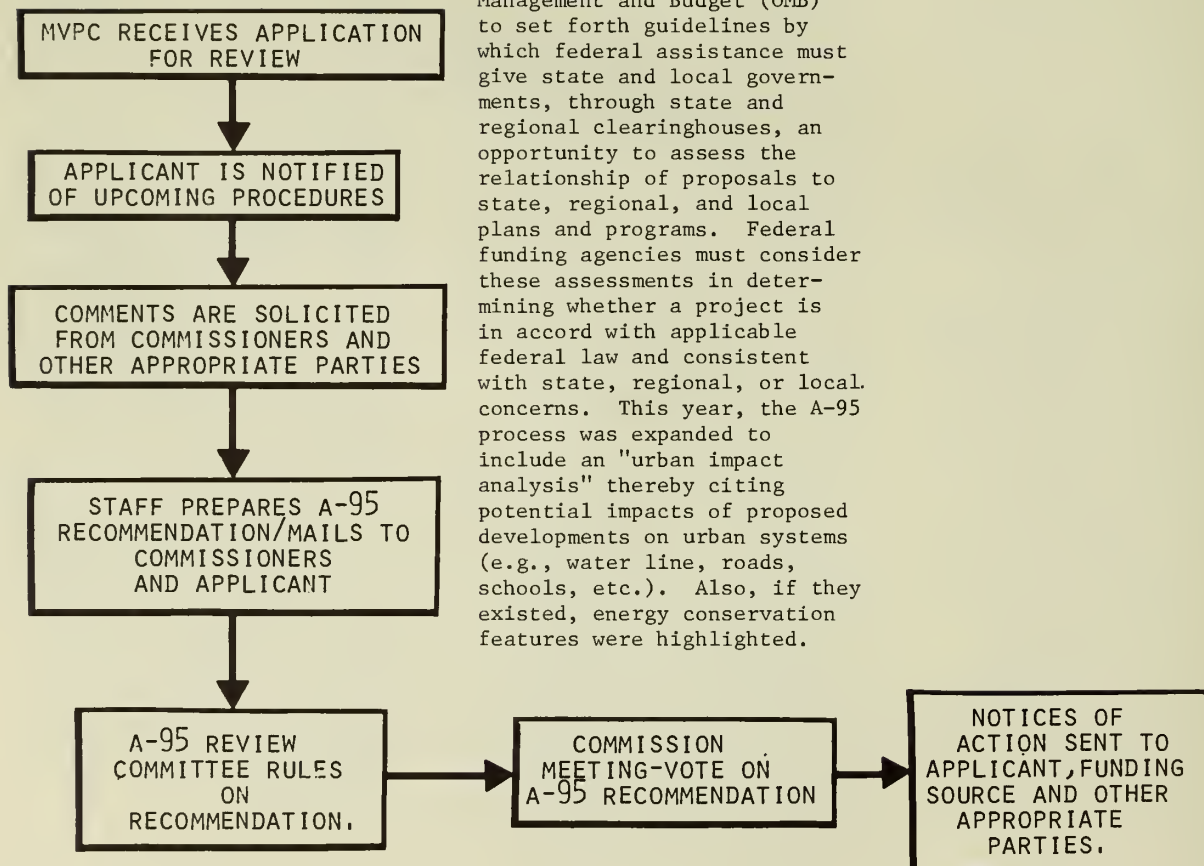
The A-95 Review process is designed to "promote maximum coordination of federal and federally assisted programs and projects with each other and with state, areawide and local plans and programs.

It is based, in part, on Title IV of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968. Title IV directs the President to establish rules and regulations governing the formulation, evaluation, and review of federal programs and projects having a significant impact on areawide and community development.

Circular A-95 was issued by the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to set forth guidelines by which federal assistance must give state and local governments, through state and regional clearinghouses, an opportunity to assess the relationship of proposals to state, regional, and local plans and programs. Federal funding agencies must consider these assessments in determining whether a project is in accord with applicable federal law and consistent with state, regional, or local concerns. This year, the A-95 process was expanded to include an "urban impact analysis" thereby citing potential impacts of proposed developments on urban systems (e.g., water line, roads, schools, etc.). Also, if they existed, energy conservation features were highlighted.

Recognizing the wide diversity among states, regions, and localities in the manner in which public business is conducted, A-95 puts few constraints on clearinghouses in the way they manage the review process.

According to the most recent Federal Register regulations for A-95, "comments and recommendations made by or through clearinghouses with respect to any project are for the purpose of assuring maximum consistency of such project with state, regional, and local comprehensive plans.



Committee Assignments

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Russ Moran, Chairman
 Fred Gabriel
 William Slusher
 Donald Shea (R)
 Ted Irvin
 Frank Romano (R)
 Gayton Osgood

FINANCE COMMITTEE

William Slusher, Chairman
 June Cook (R)
 Gus Yemma
 David Lenihan (R)
 Donald Phillips
 Frank Romano (R)
 Curtis Walton
 Bruce MacGregor

PERSONNEL

Russ Moran, Chairman
 Gayton Osgood
 Donald Shea (R)
 Woody Gammett

PROGRAM

Fred Gabriel, Chairman
 Donald Shea (R)
 Ted Irvin
 Frank Romano (R)
 Gayton Osgood
 Wendell Jenkins
 Glenn Meurer

A-95 REVIEW COMMITTEE

William Slusher, Chairman
 June Cook (R)
 Arthur Evans (R)
 David Lenihan
 Larry Ogden
 Ted Irvin
 Colleen Cronin

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Curtis Walton
 Donald Phillips
 Cynthia Lemieux (R)
 Coleen Cronin

HOUSING TASK FORCE

Gayton Osgood
 Larry Ogden

TPAG

Cynthia Lemieux (R)
 Richard Swain (R)
 Gus Yemma
 Arthur Evans

OEDP

Larry Ogden

OFFICE NEEDS

Donald Phillips
 Fred Gabriel
 Cynthia Lemieux (R)
 Wendell Jenkins

Commission Attendance July 1980-June 1981

	July*	Aug*	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Amesbury			C	C	C	-	C	C	-	-	C	C
Andover			C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Georgetown			C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Groveland			C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Haverhill			-	-	C	C	C	-	C	C	C	C
Lawrence			-	C	C	-	C	-	-	C	-	C
Merrimac			-	-	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Methuen			C	-	A	C	-	C	C	-	C	C
Newbury			-	-	-	-	A	-	-	A	C/A	-
Newburyport			C/A	C/A	C/A	C/A	-	A	C/A	C/A	C/A	C/A
North Andover			A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Rowley			A	A	A	-	A	A	-	-	A	C/A
Salisbury			C	C	C	C	C	C	C	-	C	C
West Newbury			C	-	A	A	-	-	A	-	A	-

*No meeting held

C = Commissioner

A = Alternate

- = No Representative Attended

Finance

During the period between July 1, 1979 and June 30, 1980, the MVPC received a total of \$320,030 in federal and state contracts. Local contracts contributed \$31,970 with another \$60,965 received from assessments on member communities. The total resources for the year amounted to \$424,563.

The major expense of planning activities was the payment of staff salaries.

Planning, administrative and support staff salaries amounted to \$298,195 or 72% of the fiscal years expenses. Indirect costs of \$86,070 (21%), direct costs such as travel and printing totaling \$26,415 (6%), and local expenses of \$1,932 (.05%), brought the total to \$412,612.

HUD	6.85%
UMTA	18.62%
EDA	8.27%
FmHA	3.72%
EPA	1.49%
MDPW	22.30%
DEOE	6.50%
LEAA	2.61%
CAM	3.56%
EOCD	1.46%
Local Contracts	7.53%
Local Assessments	14.36%
Other Local Revenues	2.73%

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 48,417
Accounts Receivable:	
Federal grants	34,489
State grants	23,204
Assessments	60,965
Local contracts	11,528
Sundry	806
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>\$130,992</u>
Prepaid Expenses	5,664
Fixed Assets - Grants	<u>1,563</u>
Office Equipment	6,606
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>4,247</u>
Office Equipment - Net	<u>2,359</u>
	<u>\$188,995</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Notes Payable	-0-
Accounts Payable - Consultants, etc.	-0-
Accrued Warrant Payable	\$ 8,116
Employee Withholdings	5,766
Accrued Payroll	14,651
Accrued Expenses	7,038
Contract Advances	68,842
Grants Payable	1,125
Unearned Assessment Revenue	60,965
Total Liabilities	<u>\$166,503</u>
Fund Balance	\$ 20,929
Investment in Fixed Assets	
Grants	<u>1,563</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$188,995</u>

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUE SOURCES

Housing and Urban Development	\$ 29,073
Urban Mass Transportation	
Administration	79,058
Massachusetts Department of Public	
Works	94,698
Massachusetts Department of Environ-	
mental Quality Engineering	27,586
Law Enforcement Assistance	
Administration	11,082
Department of Transportation	
New England Interstate Water	
Pollution Control	
Economic Development Administration	35,108
Farmers Home Administration	15,774
Environmental Protection Agency	6,326
Massachusetts Executive Office of	
Community Development	6,216
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone	
Management	15,109
Local Contracts	31,970
Local Assessments	60,965
Other Local Revenues	<u>7,001</u>
	<u>\$419,966</u>
Non-Cash Revenues	<u>4,597</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$424,563</u>

EXPENSES

Direct Salaries	\$182,781
Direct Fringe Benefits	24,608
Indirect Costs	176,876
Printing and Special Supplies	2,839
Travel	3,827
In-Kind Services	10,928
Consultants	4,150
Outside Labor	616
Equipment	220
Meeting Expense	1,761
Project Inspection Fee	350
Other Direct Costs	1,724
Local Expenditures	<u>1,932</u>
Total	<u>\$412,612</u>
Excess of Resources over Expenditures	\$ 11,951

Staff

Joseph Aiello, Senior Planner, Transportation
Dorothy Altman, Project Manager, EDA
Kathleen Bartolini, Assistant Executive Director
Donald Brais, Cartographer
Cheryl Breen, Senior Planner, Water Quality
Victoria Carr, Project Manager, Housing/FmHA
Sandra Delano, Junior Clerk Typist
Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Junior Planner, Transportation
Richard M. Gladstone, Executive Director
Paul Hajec, Senior Planner, Transportation
Alexander Harris, Senior Planner, Transportation
Susan Harrison, Planning Aide, All Programs
James Heidell, Junior Planner, Transportation
David Koven, Senior Planner, FmHA
Paul Laponius, Junior Planner, Transportation
Alan Macintosh, Project Manager, Water Quality
Susan Marshall, Project Manager, Criminal Justice
Gary Mongeon, Senior Planner, EDA
Donald Murphy, Planning Aide, Transportation
Paula Newcomb, Senior Planner, Local Contracts
Dianne M. O'Neil, Senior Clerk Typist
Matthew O'Neil, Planning Aide, Criminal Justice
Vail Pagliarani, Cartographer
Patricia Paquette, Senior Clerk Typist
Karen Pollastrino, Senior Planner, Housing
R. Jeffrey Riotte, Assistant Executive Director, Program Manager-Transportation
Sharon Ruocco, Administrative Assistant
Mary Russell, Senior Clerk Typist
Samuel Sacco, Acting Program Manager, Transportation
Linda Sloss, Junior Planner, Transportation
Frank L. Sylvis, Junior Planner, Transportation
Carl "Joe" Walden, Accountant
James Whittaker, Planning Aide, Criminal Justice

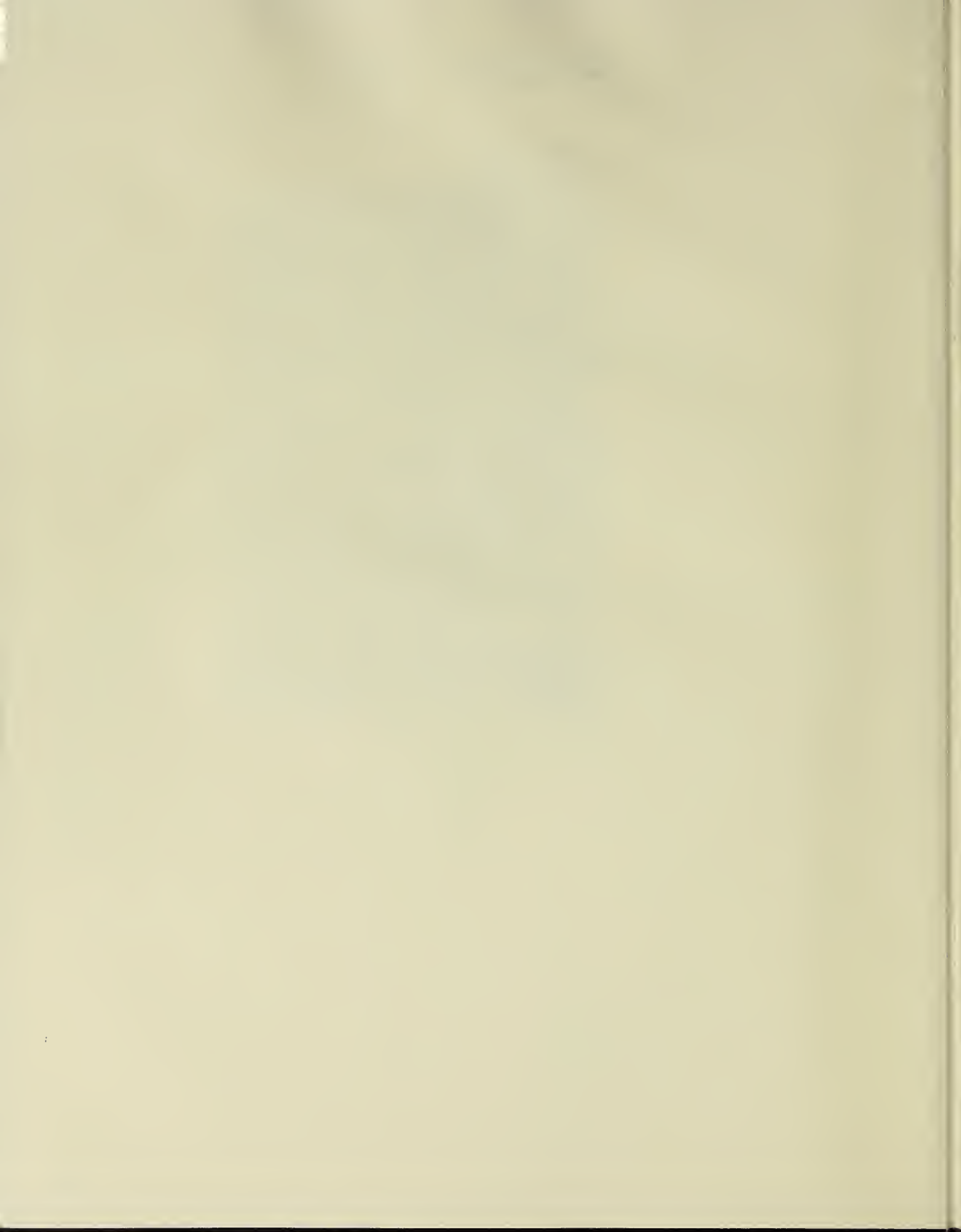
MVPC Publications

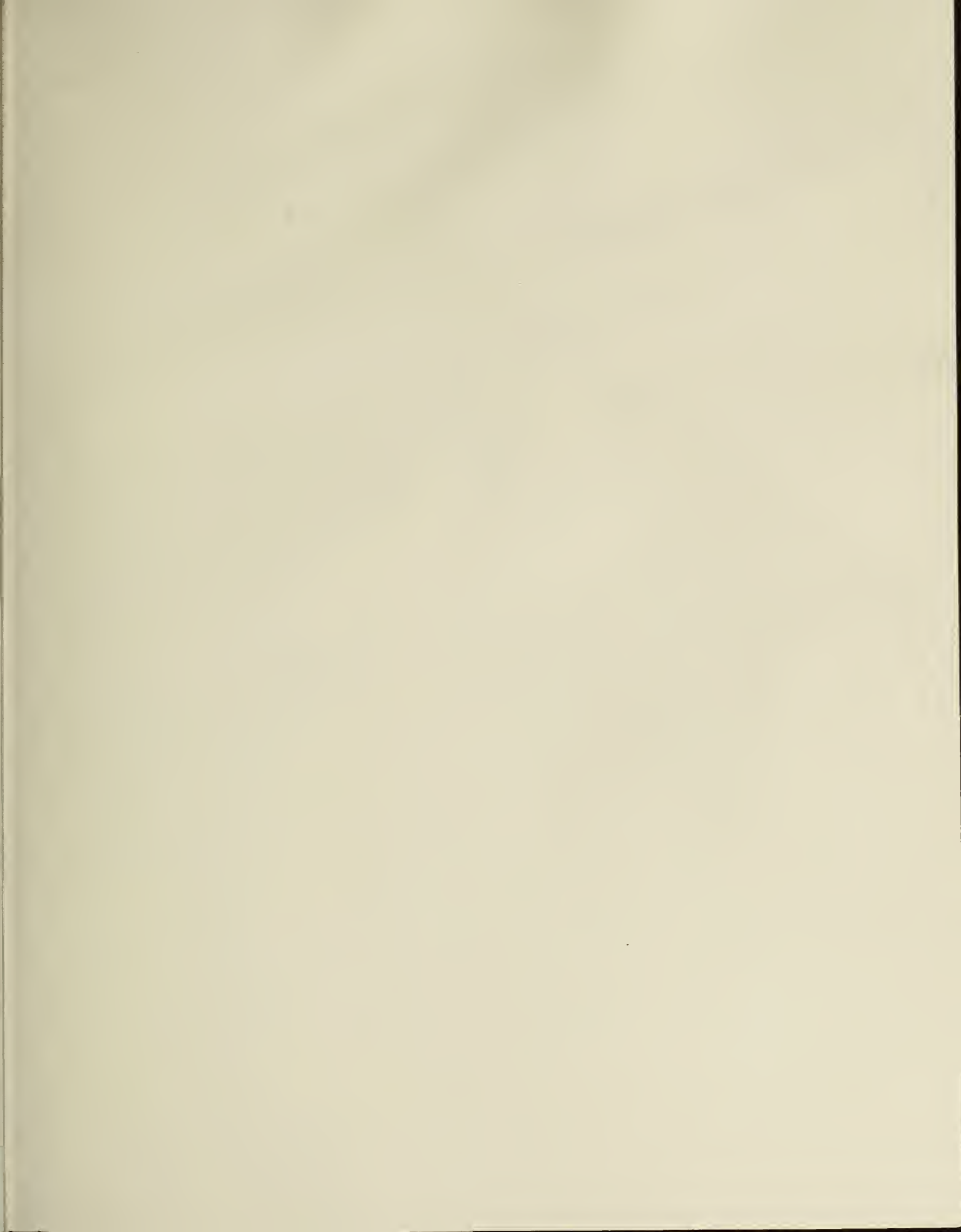
MVPC PUBLICATIONS

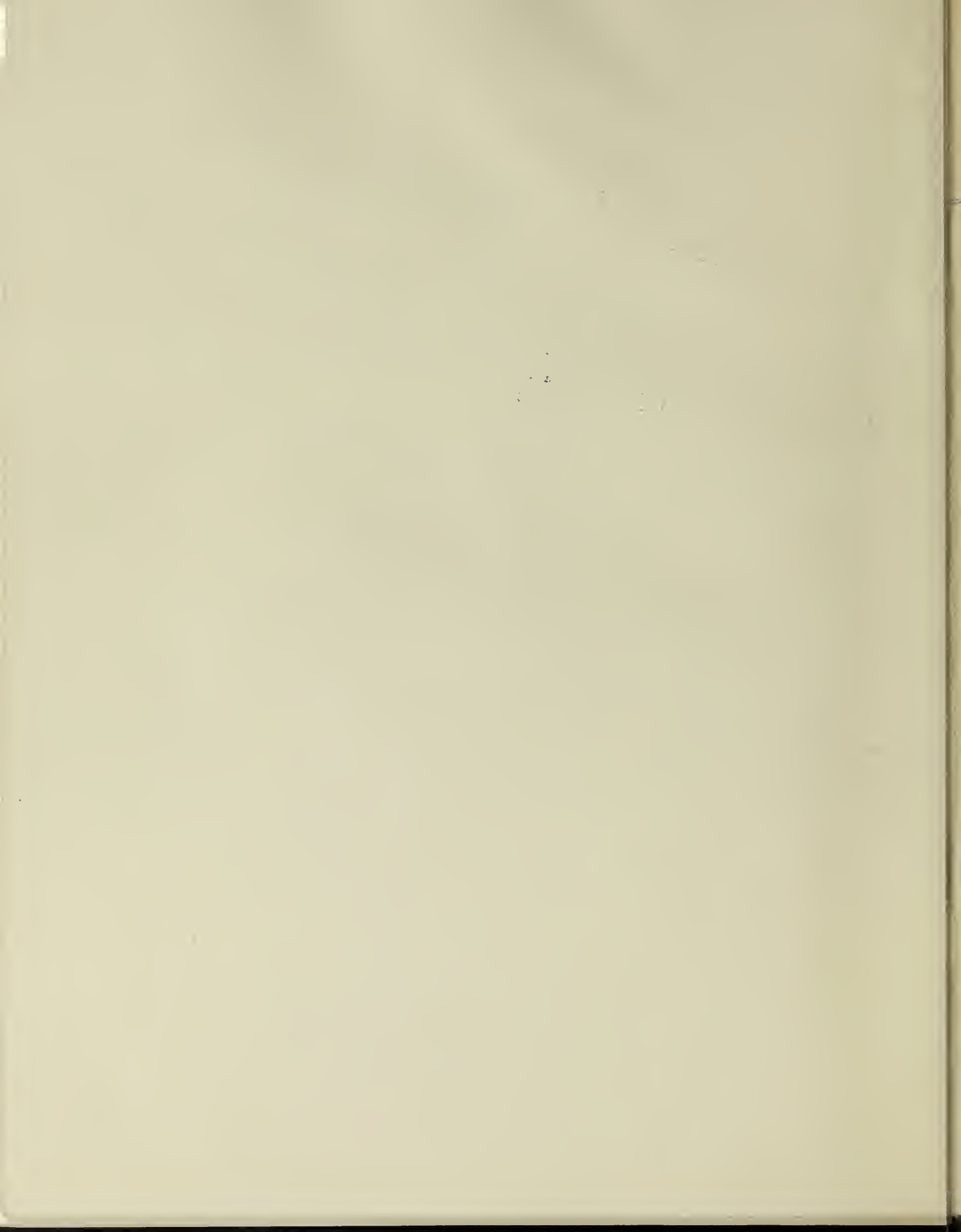
1970 - 1980

1980-1982 PUBLICATIONS

- A Citizen's Guide: Area-wide Housing Opportunity Planning; April, 1981
- Analysis of Water Resources; April 1980
- Capital Improvement Programs: Staff working document; April, 1980
- Controlling Subdivision Development Costs; April, 1981
- Merrimack Valley Transportation Plans; December, 1980; 1981
- One Family Two Family; April, 1980
- Overall Economic Development Program; April, 1981
- Prospectus 1982-1986; December, 1980-1981
- Sanitary Survey of the Merrimack River Estuary and Its Tributaries; May, 1981
- Septage Management; July 1980
- Sludge Management; July 1980
- Transportation Improvement Programs; October, 1980; 1981
- Unified Work Programs; 1980; 1981







MASS. Y3. MV. 1/9/79/80

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

F.Y. 1979-1980 Annual Report

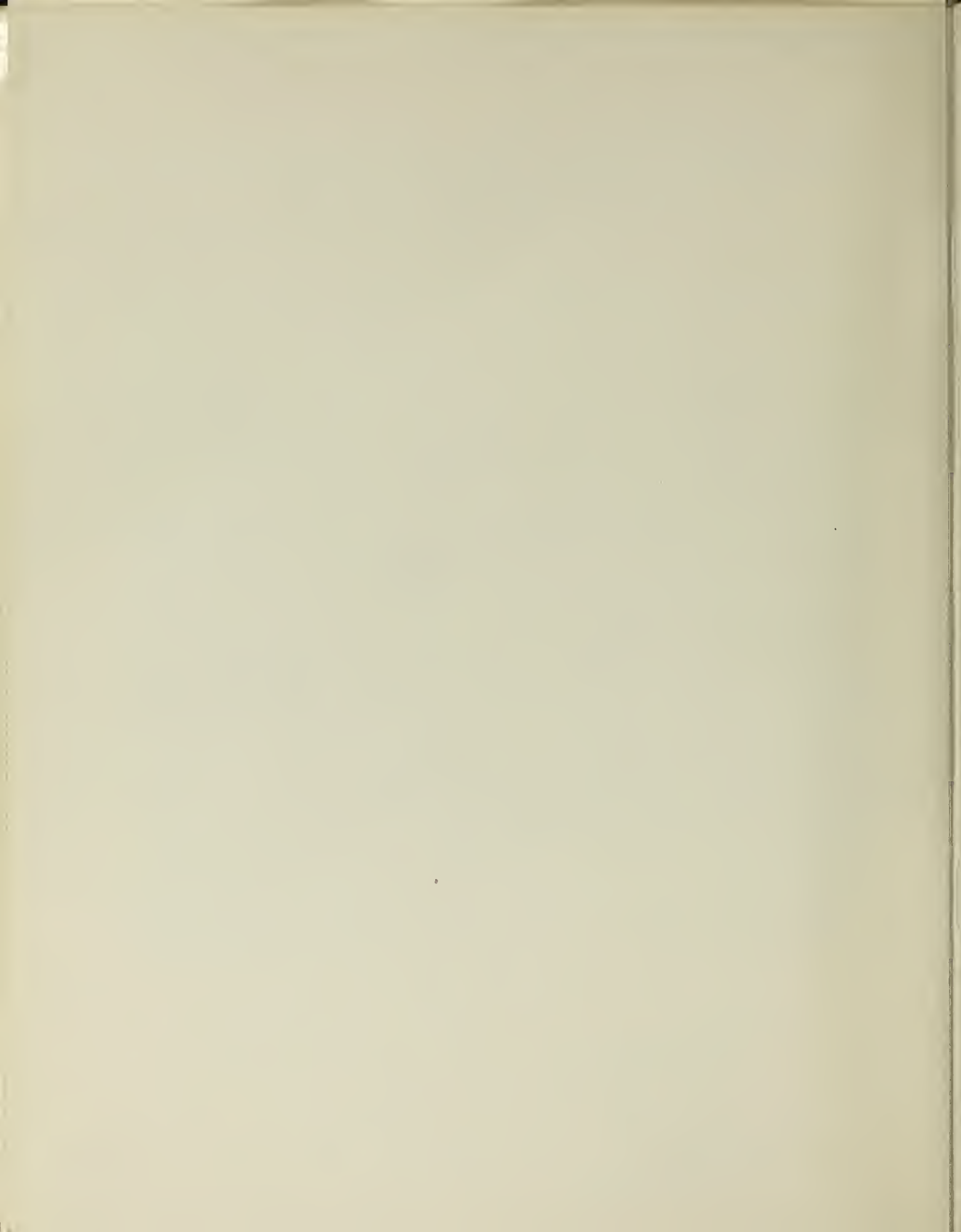


ENCHANTED BRIDGE—NORTH ANDOVER.

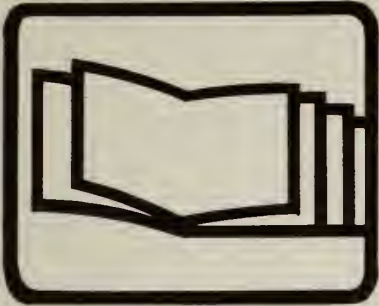
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

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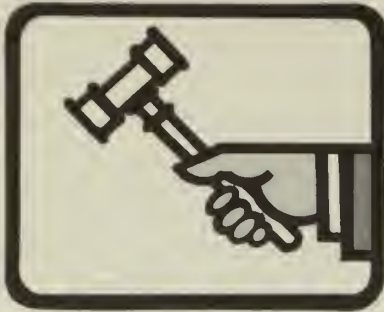


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cover photograph:
Enchanted Bridge, N. Andover (1853 - 73).
Courtesy Lawrence Public Library

A Letter from the Chairman

The MVPC - The Regional Perspective



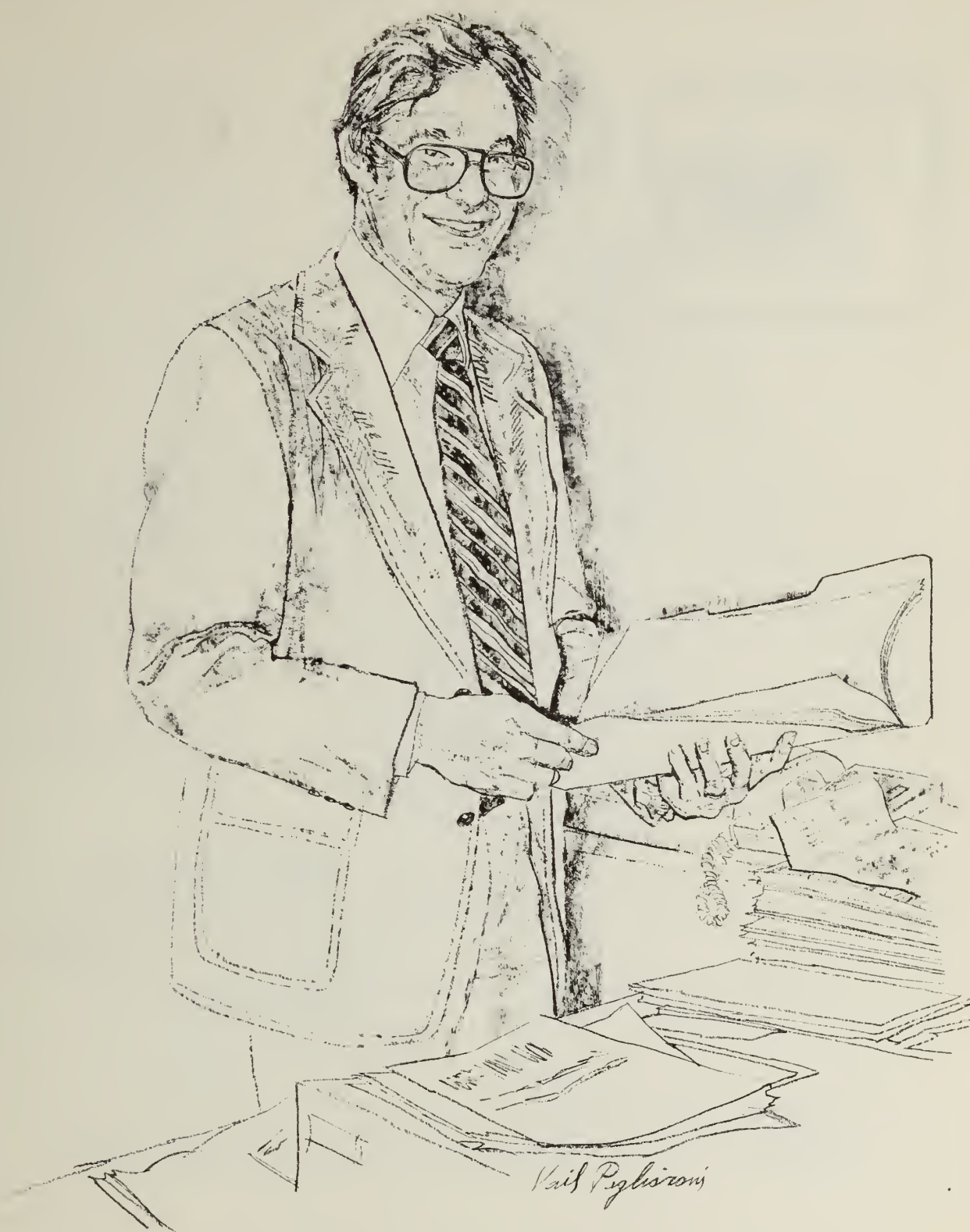
During the past year, there have been many changes that have affected the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. The MVPC was one of only a few regional planning agencies nation-wide to receive AHOP Bonus Funds. While we were pleased to receive this distinction, the implications of this designation took a while longer to fully impact many of us involved in regional planning. For the first time, implementation of our planning efforts was possible. Since then, we have made recommendations regarding those funds, but more importantly, we have also reviewed our process of implementation and have made some changes that will ensure access and accountability to all those involved. This will be true for our Economic Development funds, which also call for implementation of our plans. The input and support of our Housing Task Force and the OEDP Advisory Committee have been and will continue to be a vital part of this process.

There have also been many changes internally. Many new staff has joined us, both for contracts such as the Farmers Home program, as well as to replace staff that have left for new challenges. I think this process, however, has also been valuable. New staff, new ideas, have challenged all of us. This has been a healthy and necessary process. But as such, it has served to revitalize the Commission.

This next year will continue to offer new opportunities to the MVPC. Our goals and objectives, as well as our role and future directions are being examined. An advisory committee of local officials, planners and citizens was established to begin this process. By year's end, we hope to have public hearings around some of their recommendations. It is my hope that many of you will participate with us in this endeavor.

The role of regionalism, and in particular, the MVPC, will also be examined in light of the impacts of Proposition 2½. As always, we still have and must maintain our obligations to both federal and state contractors. Our responsibility to the A-95 Review Process, must remain and changes suggested at the federal level must be critically examined. However, we clearly have a major responsibility to the cities and towns of the region. Representing their interests and concerns in our planning process is of particular importance and should not be lost or diminished. But there is a new role for a regional agency, such as the MVPC, to play. As local funds become fewer and fewer, and local costs increase, some areas of sharing may both reduce cost for local communities, as well as create new resources for the region. Staff efforts have already begun in this regard around computerization of census and voter lists, etc. This is only a beginning. Our efforts will continue during the coming year to better serve the communities and we will keep you informed.

As a final note, this past year has been for me one of personal and professional satisfaction. Not only has it been greatly rewarding to work with the highly qualified staff of the Commission, but it has also been gratifying to have been able to share ideas and concerns with my fellow Commissioners on the issues in the region that affect us all. The Commissioners' dedication to the MVPC, and their representation of their respective communities has made working with them a valuable and stimulating experience. I thank both staff and Commissioners for allowing me this opportunity, and I look forward to the challenges of the year ahead with great anticipation and confidence.



M.V.P.C. Commissioner, George S. "Russ" Moran

Director's Report

New Challenges in the 80's

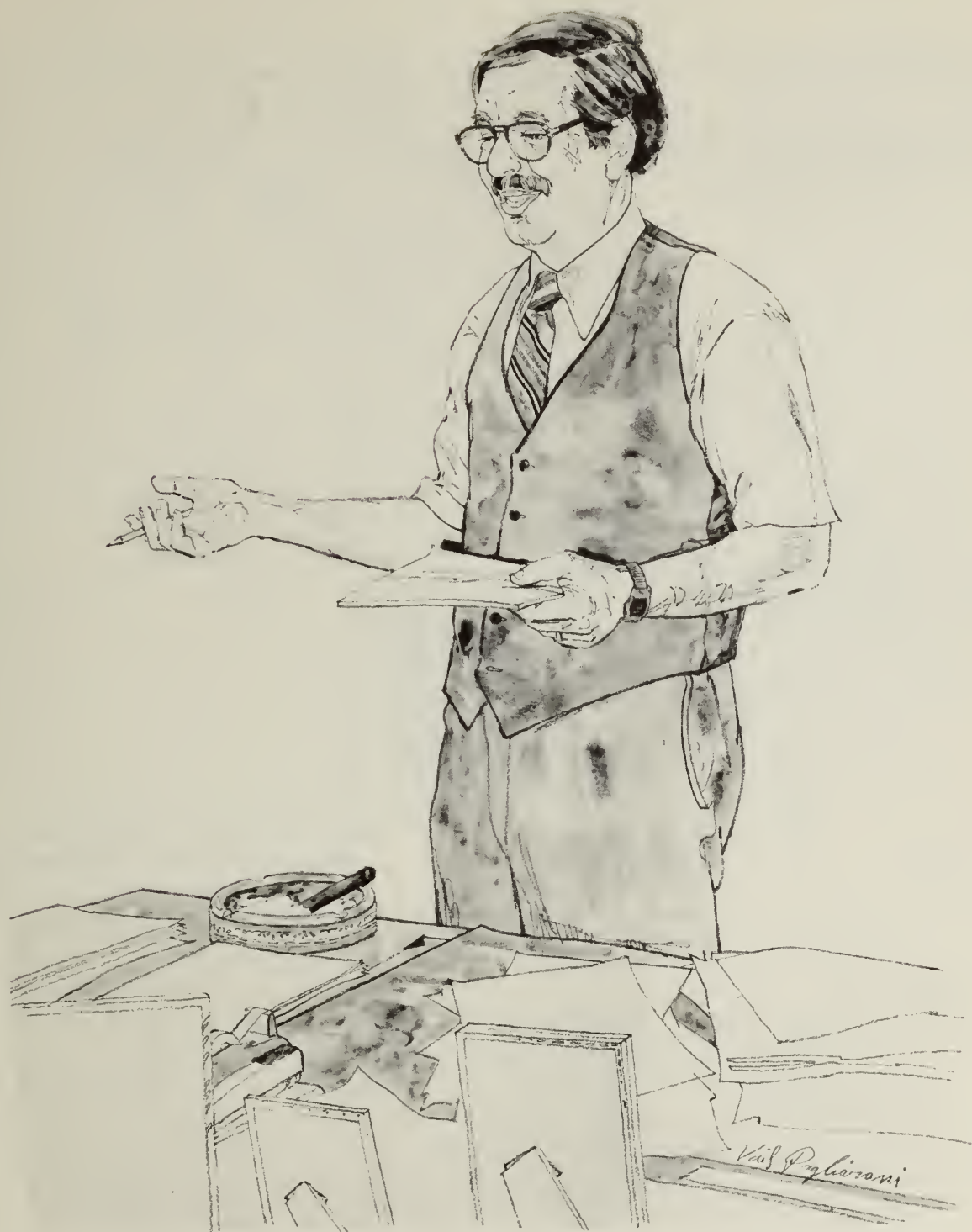


In last year's Annual Report I had emphasized that the MVPC was moving into new areas of regional concern. That movement continues apace with the addition of our Economic Development Administration and Farmer's Home Administration contracts. Herein is an effort to re-examine our own goals and objectives based on the input of those we serve. I would like to take some of your time to report on a new group of activities we have undertaken which, in my opinion, could have direct positive impact on our member communities.

On November 4, 1980, elections were held that have far reaching implications for our communities. At the Federal level we elected a new President and changed substantially the nature of the U.S. Senate. On March 10, 1981 the new President will deliver his budget message. Based on conferences I have recently attended and on various newsletters I read regularly this budget message will not contain good news for municipalities throughout the Nation. Most Federal programs to which our communities apply for funding will be cut or eliminated.

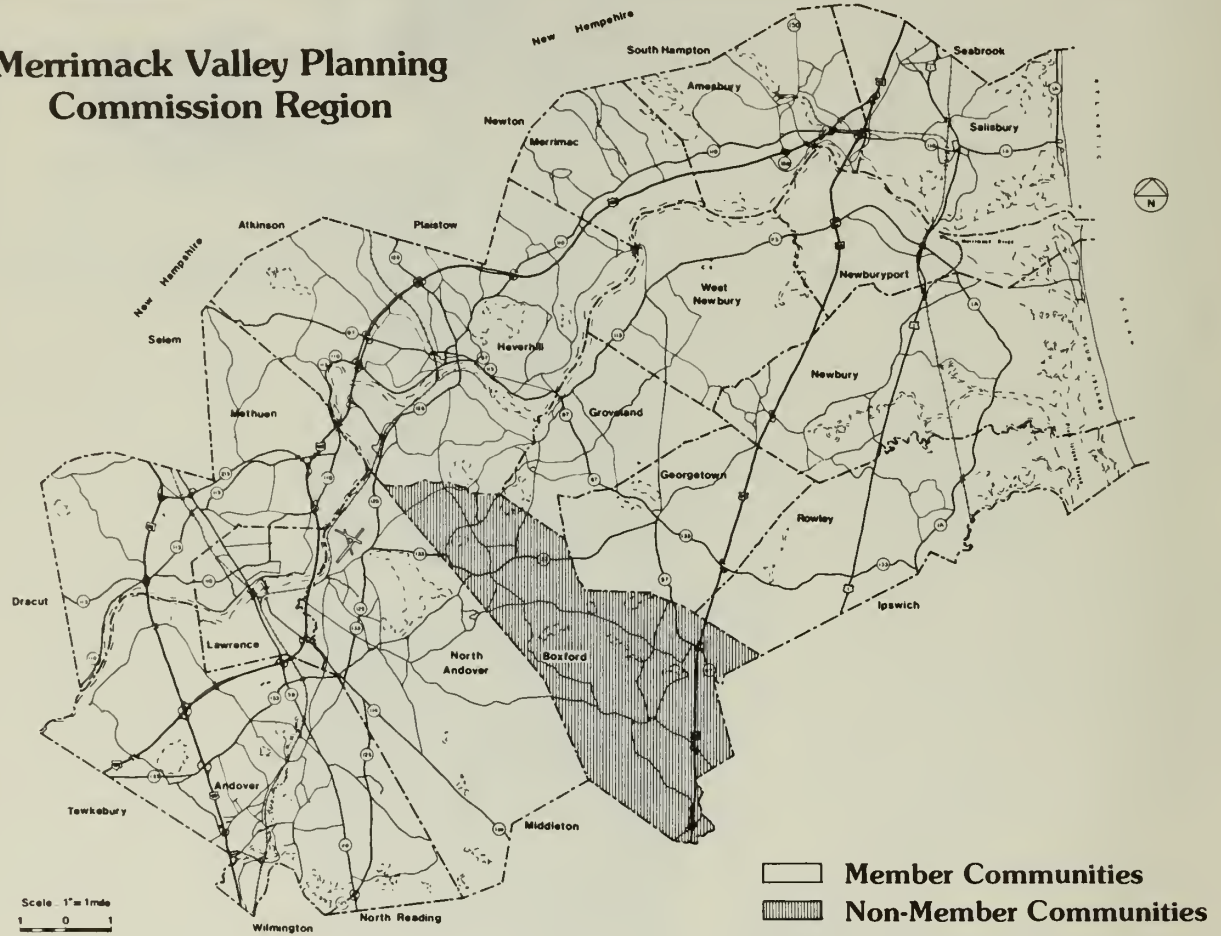
Translation - our communities cannot and should not expect much in the way of fiscal aid from the Federal Government in the foreseeable future. At the State level the people of the Commonwealth passed the so-called "Proposition 2½". This new law will have the net affect of limiting the fiscal resources of our communities through the property tax.

I share, with many of you, the concerns that have arisen since the election but I also see opportunities that we haven't taken advantage of in the past. One of the MVPC's major roles in the near future will be to assist our communities in dealing with these recent events. We are already investigating ways to save money by combining the purchasing power of our individual communities. These investigations lead me to believe that there are substantial savings available to our communities by cooperating in purchasing necessary goods and services. The Commission will continue to pursue such possibilities in the coming months and we welcome the challenge to assist our communities.



MVPC Executive Director, Richard M. Gladstone

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Region



Regional Planning

Many of the problems which face communities in the Merrimack Valley are not limited by individual community boundaries, but are regional or statewide in scope. Attempts at solutions by isolated groups, however well conceived and implemented, can often fail because they address only a limited segment of a larger problem. The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, as a regional planning agency, is able to address problems which affect the region as a whole, and to propose regional solutions.

The Merrimack Valley region is comprised of fifteen communities. At present, fourteen are members of the Commission and appoint representatives. These representatives provide policy direction for comprehensive planning in the region.

The Commission employs an Executive Director and a professional as well as a support staff to undertake planning activities. The Commission receives annual funding from participating communities on a per capital basis and special funding from state and federal agencies to conduct specific planning projects.

The MVPC staff studies regional problems and formulates comprehensive regional plans. These plans, which concern such areas as land use, transportation, housing, recreation, environmental quality, economic development and social welfare are based on goals and objectives adopted by the Commission.

The Commission's goals and objectives include providing equal opportunity and decent housing to all persons, and promoting a balanced relationship between society and the environment, responsible land utilization, a balanced transportation system, and adequate and varied recreational opportunities.

The MVPC strives to maintain a regional perspective in seeking the solutions to multi-community problems. The primary goal of the Commission is to make the Merrimack Valley a desirable area for living, working and recreation, both now and in the future.

Community Representatives

Officers

George S. (Russ) Moran, Chairman
Fred Gabriel, Vice Chairman
William E. Slusher, Treasurer
Donald Shea, Secretary

Amesbury

Richard Whaley (R)
Cynthia Lemieux
Richard Whaley
Joseph Fahey

Andover

George Moran
Paul Teplitz

Georgetown

Holly Haller (R)
Lawrence Ogden
Donald Peterson (R)
Lawrence Ogden (R)
Holly Haller

Groveland

William Slusher
Leo Downing

Haverhill

Joseph D'Orazio (R)
Salvatore Yemma
Richard Swain

Lawrence

John Stundza (R)
Roland Landry
John Pavlenkov (R)
David Lenihan

Merrimac

Arthur Evans
Richard Waterhouse

Methuen

Donald Shea
Kevin Hagerty

Newbury

Curtis Walton
John O'Connell

Newburyport

Fred Gabriel
L. Donald Phillips

North Andover

Joyce Ditore (R)
John Monteiro
Gayton Osgood

Rowley

Gary Hanson
Howard Reith (R)
Frank Romano

Salisbury

Edward Irvin
Ann Carey

West Newbury

June Cook
John Popplewell

R = Resigned

Italics - Alternate

Community Assistance

The MVPC is concerned not only with the Merrimack Valley as a whole, but also with each individual community. In order to maintain and promote the Merrimack Valley as a desirable place in which to live, work, and plan, projects must be undertaken at the local, as well as at the regional level. To achieve this end, the MVPC provides a variety of assistance to member communities.

Local Technical Assistance

The MVPC annually allocates 87 hours of professional technical assistance to each community. This Local Technical Assistance (LTA) time can be used by the community to supplement its own planning efforts, to have grant applications written, zoning bylaws updated, subdivision regulations examined, or almost any problem studies.

All communities in the region benefit from this program, particularly those without full time planning personnel, as they can use their LTA time to study problems they would otherwise be unable to address.

Major projects completed under the LTA program during Fiscal Year 1980 included the following:

AMESBURY

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for Housing Rehabilitation

ANDOVER

Portions of the Andover Socio-Economic and Administrative Space Needs Studies

GEORGETOWN

Preparation of CDBG Application for Lake Shores Drainage Project

GROVELAND

Preparation of "Imminent Threat" CDBG Application for a new well

HAVERHILL

Preparation of Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) grant application

Assistance with Long Range Comprehensive Plan - Housing and Land Use Portions

Haverhill Land Use Study

LAWRENCE

Cost-Impact Analysis of Subsidized Housing

MERRIMAC

Application for Sewering Lake Attitash

METHUEN

Assistance with CDBG Application

NEWBURY

Development of Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) Application

NEWBURYPORT

Cost-Impact Analysis of Subsidized Housing

NORTH ANDOVER

Development of CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Pre-Application

Preparation of North Andover Open Space/Recreation Plan

ROWLEY

Development of Housing Assistance Plan

Assistance to Selectmen in development of CDBG "Imminent Threat" Water Supply Application

Development of Rowley Open Space/Recreation Plan with Recreation Committee

SALISBURY

Development of Council on Aging Grant Application for a Senior Citizens Center

WEST NEWBURY

Mapping Project

Assistance relative to Elderly Public Housing

Preparation of Affirmative Action Plan

REGIONAL

Riverfront Property Ownership Study

Local Contracts

Local Contracts - In addition to assistance provided through LTA time, the MVPC enters into contracts with member communities to provide planning expertise at cost to the community.

Nevins Memorial Library Comprehensive Plan-Methuen-
During this fiscal year the MVPC began work on a contract with Methuen's Nevins Memorial Library. This project is similar in scope to the Haverhill Public Library Project reported on these pages last year. This project will examine all aspects of the Nevins Library operations and make recommendations on how they might be improved to serve Methuen's citizens. Funded in total by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, this project is scheduled for completion in February of 1981.

Town of Andover-Administrative Space Needs and Population Study-The MVPC contracted with the Town of Andover this year to project total and school age population while at the same time examining the Town's Administrative Space Needs. This was accomplished to explore the feasibility of utilizing an existing school for a new Town Hall. Completed during this fiscal year, the recommendations of this study are now being considered by the Town of Andover.

Georgetown Single Purpose Community Development Block Grant-The MVPC administered the CDBG used to fund the installation of drainage in the Lake Shores neighborhood. During 1980, drainage pipes were installed to alleviate flooding, septic field leaching and pollution of Rock Pond. The MVPC assisted the Town in choosing an engineer, contractor and auditor, and performed the project close-out activities.

Groveland Imminent Threat Community Development Block Grant-The MVPC also administered the CDBG used to fund the installation of a new well and pumping station to replace the existing wells contaminated by trichloroethylene (TCE). This well is the only water source supplying the Town. The MVPC assisted the Town in choosing an engineer, contractor and auditor, and performed the project close-out activities.

Community Liaisons

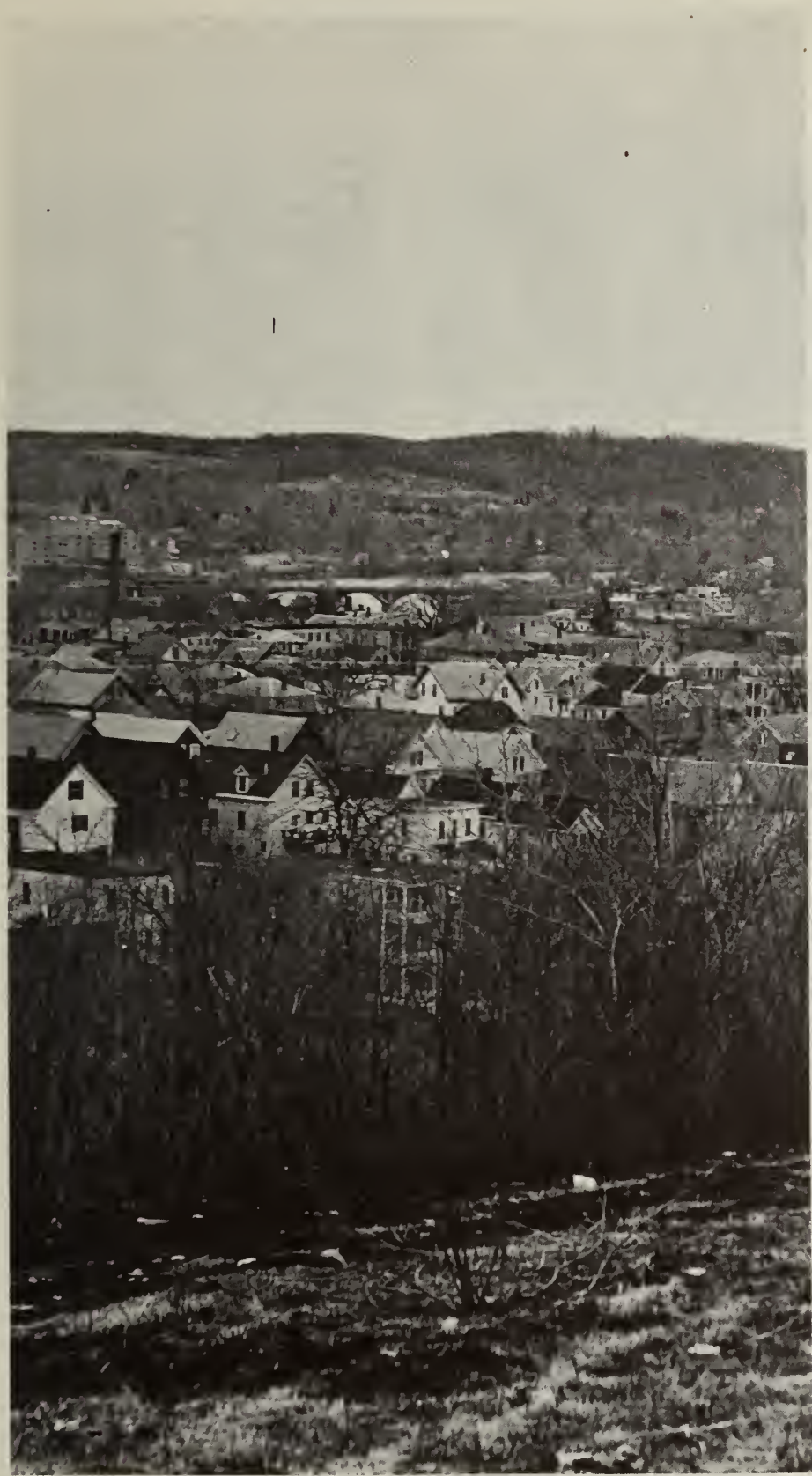
Amesbury	William Hart
Andover	Kathleen Bartolini
Boxford	James Heidell
Georgetown	Susan Marshall
Groveland	Stephen
	Estes-Smargiassi
Haverhill	Richard Gladstone
Lawrence	Richard Gladstone
Merrimac	Paula Newcomb
Methuen	Donald Brais
Newbury	Samuel Sacco
Newburyport	R. Jeffrey Riotte
North Andover	R. Jeffrey Riotte
Rowley	Cheryl Breen
Salisbury	Alan Macintosh
West Newbury	Dorothy Altman

FAPRS

The Federal Assistance Program Retrieval System, more commonly known as "FAPRS," is a service developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and maintained by the Federal Office of Management and Budget. This service rapidly identifies programs of interest to local governments or individuals via a computerized index of the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. Most of the Catalog's 1,100 programs are classified by (1) the problems for which they provide assistance, and (2) the eligibility criteria for applicants. The computer prints out, in list form, pertinent program titles and

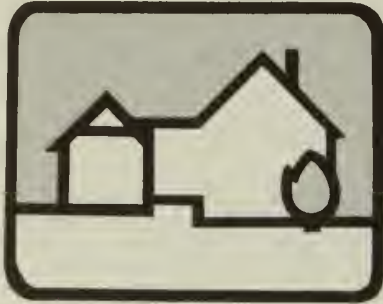
catalog numbers. It is then necessary to look up programs of specific interest in the Catalog for complete details on requirements, application, etc.

The MVPC processes FAPRS requests as a service, charging only the \$5.00 required by the University of Massachusetts, which provides the computer printouts.



Housing and Urban Development

Housing



The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission continued to implement the Areawide Housing Opportunity Plan (AHOP) during FY80. The AHOP is a cooperative effort between the MVPC and the participating communities to increase the supply of housing for low and moderate income households in the region as well as provide the opportunity to low and moderate income households and minorities to move from areas of concentrations (downtown Haverhill, Lawrence, and the Arlington District of Methuen). Participating jurisdictions include Amesbury, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence, Merrimac, Methuen, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, Rowley, and Salisbury.

The major tool for implementation was bonus funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD awarded the region with \$376,000 in Section 8 new construction/substantial rehabilitation funds, sufficient to fund approximately 60 units of housing for low and moderate income households. In addition, the region was awarded \$107,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds. Some of these funds will be used by the MVPC to run a housing referral service. The remainder of the funds (\$67,000) will be awarded to the community in which the housing is built for a CDBG activity which improves the housing to make it an asset to the community.

The MVPC Housing Task Force continued to meet throughout the year. The Task Force is a voluntary group of 85 organizations and individuals concerned with housing issues in the region representing government, citizens groups, realtors, bankers and other interests. Major issues addressed included the distribution of subsidized housing units, the AHOP Bonus application, housing programs including Farmer's Home Admin-

istration, Mass. Housing Finance Agency, and Section 8 "existing." The group also discussed fair housing and HUD's New Horizons program.

MVPC and the Housing Task Force also sponsored three workshops including: Farmers Home Administration firm, housing, public works, business and industrial programs; Housing rehabilitation and Energy Conservation and Public Housing New Strategies.

Community Development

During 1979-1980, work took place on various projects funded by Community Development Block Grants in the MVPC region. Housing rehabilitation work was done in Amesbury, North Andover, and the Arlington District of Methuen. Sewers were being installed in the Lake Attitash area of Merrimac to relieve pollution of the lake. In Amesbury, the Ordway School was being restored for use as an elderly drop-in center.

The communities of Rowley and Groveland were awarded Imminent Threat grants to construct new wells replacing the wells contaminated by trichloroethylene. Georgetown began the installation of drainage in the Lake Shores neighborhood near Rock Pond and both the Georgetown and Groveland grants were administered by the MVPC.

In addition, North Andover received money for improvements to a subsidized housing complex. Sidewalks and fire alarm boxes were provided near Woodridge.

Land Use

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission began implementing the regional land use plan during FY79. The regional land use plan was developed by comparing the existing zoning patterns in the region with the physical and environmental conditions of each community. Local zoning was supported where densities and uses were generally compatible with the capacity of the land to accommodate development in an environmentally sound manner. Each planning board was furnished with the community maps that were used to determine the generalized zones. In addition, planning boards, selectmen, and other key community officials received copies of the region land use report.

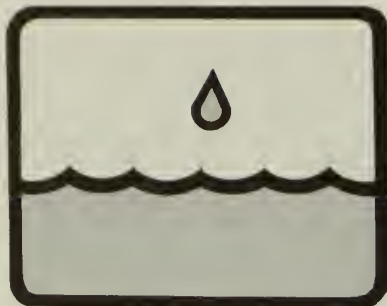
During F.Y. 80, the MVPC continued to meet with local planning boards, the local board responsible for promoting sound land use, to discuss conflicts between regional and local land use goals. Letters were sent to planning boards asking for specific responses to comments about conflicts. Letters were received from Amesbury, Andover, Groveland, Newbury, North Andover, and Salisbury. Meetings were held with the Rowley Planning Board. Zoning changes have been made in Methuen and Salisbury to bring local zoning into agreement with regional goals.

In addition, MVPC worked on a comprehensive plan revision for Andover by completing a demographic study of anticipated population growth. To assist Newburyport and Lawrence with the implications of expanded housing construction, the MVPC prepared housing cost-benefit studies for each of the communities.

The MVPC has continued to participate in the State Growth Policy process by monitoring the state Legislative Growth Policy Committee, in preparation for reviewing legislation to continue the process.



Water Quality



The MVPC's Water Quality Staff participated in a variety of activities aimed at abating sources of pollution and improving the region's waters for drinking, recreation, and shellfish, fish, and wildlife propagation. Foremost among these activities were:

- 1) Implementation of a septage management program for the region's non-sewered communities.
- 2) Initiation of a pilot land application project for the disposal/utilization of sewage sludge.
- 3) Identification of multiple use opportunities associated with the region's publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities.
- 4) Mapping of riverfront properties along the lower Merrimack mainstem.
- 5) Initiation of a comprehensive sanitary survey of the Merrimack River estuary and tributaries.
- 6) Provision of environmental assessments and other water-related technical assistance.

Septage And Sludge Management

As part of a continuing effort to implement key elements of its Areawide Water Quality Management Plan, the MVPC worked closely with the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, the region's sewage treatment plants, and local Boards of Health to mitigate the long-standing problems of septage and sludge disposal. Important accomplishments in this regard included: 1) the institution of local septage hauler licensing procedures in accordance with the provisions of the State Environmental Code, 2) the granting of septage disposal privileges at the Haverhill and Greater Lawrence treatment plants to the communities of Merrimack, Newbury, Rowley, and West Newbury, and 3) the formation of a regional sludge management commit-

tee to promote the development of composting, landspreading, and other low-cost sludge disposal alternatives.

Multiple Use Of Sewage Treatment Facilities

With an eye to enhancing public access and enjoyment of the Merrimack River and its tributaries, the MVPC identified and mapped all publicly-owned treatment facility open spaces (such as interceptor rights-of-way) that offer opportunities for bicycling, jogging, cross-country skiing, or other recreational pursuits. An accompanying report was prepared and distributed that described and ranked each facility and explained the steps that a recreation department or other interested group can following developing the facility for recreational use.

Riverfront Ownership And Land Use

Working in cooperation with the Merrimack River Watershed Council, the MVPC completed an ownership inventory of all public, quasi-public, and private properties abutting the lower Merrimack River. This information, when coupled with land use and other considerations, will be used by the MVPC and Council to develop a greenway plan for the river.

Water Quality And Shellfish Survey

With assistance from Newburyport, Salisbury, and several state agencies, the MVPC began an intensive investigation of sanitary conditions in the Merrimack River Estuary and its tributaries. The investigation includes extensive water quality and shellfish sampling, the identification of continuing sources of pollution, and an assessment of the density and distribution of the estuary's soft shell clam resource. Results of the investigation will demonstrate both the degree of success of recent river cleanup

efforts and feasibility of re-opening the shellfish slats for seasonal harvest.

Environmental Assessments And Other Technical Assistance

At the request of the North Andover Conservation Commission, the MVPC examined the plans and site for a proposed subdivision on the shore of Lake Cochichewick, the Town's principal water supply. On the basis of the concerns voiced by the MVPC and others regarding potential pollution from septic system leachate and stormwater runoff, several key revisions to the plans were called for by a state reviewing agency.

The MVPC provided technical assistance to the Groveland and Rowley Water Departments when chemical contamination forced the closure of town wells, and was instrumental in securing federal funds to identify and develop alternate supplies.

Working closely with the Groveland Recreation Commission and U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the MVPC began development of a recreation site plan for a parcel of public land abutting the Merrimack River. When completed, the plan will include several options for recreational facilities and measures to ensure water quality protection.

In response to a request from the City of Lawrence Community Development Department, the MVPC inspected the physical conditions and design data of the South Lawrence Branch Library. On the basis of the MVPC's observations and recommendations regarding several structural irregularities and a subsurface drainage problem, the City called for a detailed engineering assessment before expending funds for renovation.



Transportation

Transportation Program Description



One of the ways that the MVPC serves its member communities is through its involvement in various transportation planning activities. The purpose of the transportation planning program is to develop an efficient, safe, and cost-effective regional transportation system. Transportation planning at the MVPC focuses on two general subject areas: transit planning and highway planning and management. Both programs are coordinated through various governmental agencies. Within the past year, the MVPC has also been involved in a cooperative effort to develop local, regional, and statewide approaches to reduce mobile source air pollution. Work on this program has been integrated with the aforementioned transit and highway planning activities.

Primary funding sources for the transportation planning program are the Massachusetts Department of Public Works and the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (U.S. Department of Transportation). The MVPC is under contract to both agencies to perform transportation planning for the region.

The "3C" Planning Process

The MVPC's transportation planning program must be deemed acceptable both to the federal and to the state governments in order for the region to receive funding for various projects. The planning process must be comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous throughout the region. This is known as the "3C" planning process.

The MVPC staff provides technical and administrative support to the 3C planning process.

Development Of The Transportation Plan

The Transportation Plan for the MVPC region consists of two parts: the Long Range Element (LRE) and the Transportation Systems Management Element (TSME). The LRE defines the long-range transportation goals and projects planned for the region. The TSME coordinates local transportation projects through the identification and implementation of short-term improvements.

In order to be in accordance with the 3C process, the Transportation Plan should be consistent with land use patterns and the socioeconomic, environmental, and energy conservation goals of the region. The Plan is reviewed annually to ensure that it is responsive to changes in any of these goals and policies.

Special Studies

Work on special studies is an ongoing activity of the transportation program. During the past year, the staff completed its assigned portion of the I-93 Joint Transportation Study. Upon completing this task, staff members developed proposals and work plans for future projects. Detailed work plans for a travel time study and for a vehicle occupancy study were recently approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works (MDPW). It is expected that work on these projects will begin in the spring.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP, represents one link in the Transportation Planning Process in the Merrimack Valley region. It is by design a program for the continual improvement of the region's transportation networks. It is a comprehensive overview of all existing, planned, proposed or completed projects within the region.

Each year this program is subjected to a complete updating. Communities are asked to submit their plans for any new projects, and they are asked to provide information on the status of existing projects. This cooperative function between the MVPC and member communities assures that the region in total is kept informed of all activities.

This TIP provides a comprehensive overview of all projects in the Merrimack Valley region. It is an example of the continuing planning that goes on in the region, and it illustrates the cooperation that exists between the MVPC and member communities.

The projects in the TIP are reviewed for their impacts on regional air quality. The review is part of the process to insure consistency with the MVPC's air quality work program and the air quality improvement goals in the Section 175 air quality planning program.

Air Quality

The 1970 Clean Air Act directed the Environmental Protection Agency to establish air quality standards which would protect human health and minimize damage to vegetation and property. Along with the standards, to be attained by 1987, EPA directed each state to develop programs to monitor progress toward achieving those standards. As a result the Governor designated the MVPC as this region's lead agency for reducing mobile source air

pollution. MVPC has been involved in a coordinated effort with the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, the Department of Public Works, and the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction to develop local, regional, and state-wide approaches to help meet the impending standards. Work during the past year involved "hot spot screening" - the identification of locations where acceptable tolerance levels were exceeded. Transportation-related measures for reducing air pollution at these locations were also evaluated.

Transit Planning

During 1980, in cooperation with the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA), the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC), continued its role as the principal transit planning agency for the region. Transit planning activities which were undertaken included the ongoing Bus Service Monitoring and Evaluation Study, and evaluation of commuter rail services, the Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Transition Plan, an impact study of school children ridership on the Lawrence Area Bus System, and an impact study of new Lawrence Area buses on ridership.



Transit Service

Under the auspices of the MVRTA, Haverhill has been receiving fixed route bus service since October 1975. Lawrence, Methuen, and North Andover have been receiving service since November 1977. Andover began receiving service in 1978.

The map of the Greater Lawrence and Haverhill area, opposite, shows the area presently being served by the MVRTA.

Recent Transit Service Improvements

New buses in the Haverhill and Lawrence system:

The Haverhill portion of the MVRTA added five new buses in April of 1980 to service their six city routes and one inter-city (Haverhill to Lawrence) route. The vehicles are smaller and more maneuverable. In Lawrence seven new buses were added. They are of the advanced Design variety and are equipped with a "lift" option for wheel chair users and a "kneeling" option for those people who have limited abilities for boarding buses. In addition, five remanufactured buses have been added to the Haverhill fleet and ten were added in Lawrence. The MVPC and MVRTA will be monitoring ridership of these buses over the coming months in an effort to determine potential ridership increases by the elderly and handicapped as well as the general public.

Doubling of peak-hour bus service in Haverhill and Lawrence:

A report prepared by the MVPC in July of 1978, recommended that peak hour service be doubled in the Merrimack Valley Region. Peak hour service is considered to be between the hours of 6:00 AM and 9:00 AM and between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM. It was doubled in order to properly serve the Region's populace

and facilitate commuters in getting to their place of employment. This service will be continually monitored for its performance and to see whether further schedule changes are necessitated.

Demand-responsive service in Andover, Methuen and Greater Lawrence area

Under the auspices of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority, Weebus transportation is now available to any resident of Andover and Methuen who is transportation handicapped, regardless of age, and to those residents who are sixty years of age and over who find it difficult to use or do not have access to available MVRTA regular route service. Transportation is provided within the Town of Andover and the City known as the Town of Methuen, as well as between any other Greater Lawrence city or town (Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover).

The Institution of Commuter Rail Service in the Region:

Commuter rail service was instituted in the Merrimack Valley Region in December of 1979. The service serves 5 stations within the region. They are: 1) Haverhill; 2) Bradford; 3) Lawrence; 4) Andover; 5) Ballardvale. There are now 4 trains to Boston during the morning, and 4 trains from Boston during the late afternoon and early evening.

The MVPC, in conjunction with the MVRTA, has undertaken a study of commuter rail in the region. From this study, planning recommendations for future commuter rail changes, if they are deemed necessary, will be made.

Scheduled Transit Improvements

Shuttle bus service in downtown Lawrence:

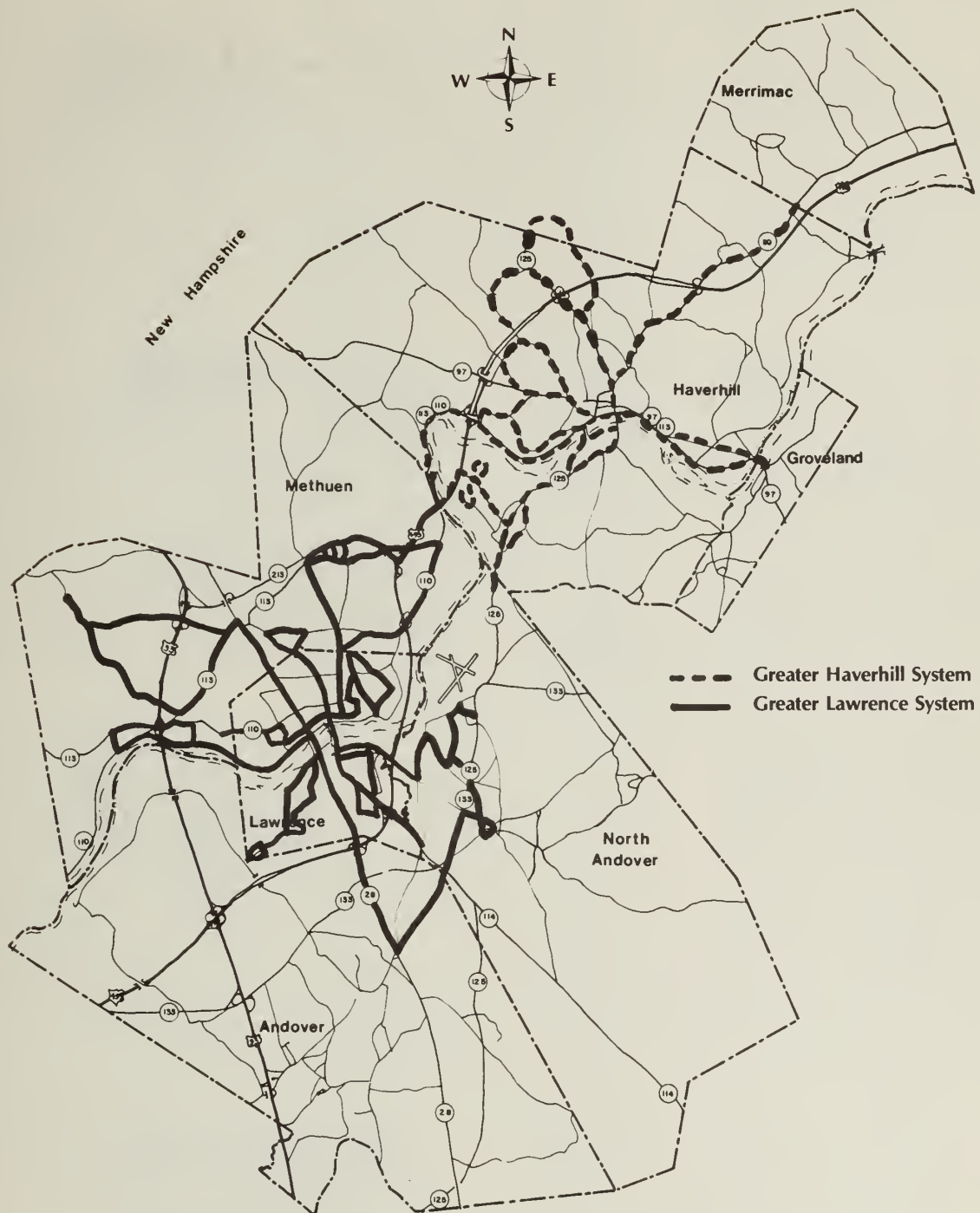
As part of the Lawrence downtown revitalization effort, a shuttle bus system has been planned. The MVRTA has ordered four buses which will be on

line in February of 1981, providing public transportation for the downtown area. The buses will operate on an Essex Street-Common Street Loop, and a Municipal Parking Lot-City Hall Loop. Bus stops and shelters will be located at key points to provide pedestrian access to the shuttle system.

Bus stops and shelters:

The MVPC has prepared a bus stop and shelter location study for the MVRTA. The study developed a methodology for locating bus stops and shelters, and identified locations where large numbers of patrons board the buses. Construction of stops and shelters is planned for late spring of 1981.

MVRTA Bus Service



Public Participation

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission has developed a very active citizen participation program. Each MVPC major program involves an advisory or coordinating committee. For example, the Housing Task Force, formed during the preparation of the Housing Element, was instrumental in developing the AHOP. Unless a separate advisory/working committee is formed, the Task Force will provide direction on the New Horizons project.

The 93-member Task Force is composed of representatives of local housing authorities, Councils on Aging, social service/welfare agencies, planning departments, realtors, Chambers of Commerce, neighborhood associations, Easter Seal Society, transit authority, League of Women Voters, and "interested citizens." In addition, a New Horizon Task Force will be formed to include representatives of fair housing groups, financial institutions and the real estate industry.

Citizen participation - Local input is a major focus of the Farmers Home Administration project. In each rural (under 10,000 population) community, a planning committee(s) is currently being formed. These committees will be composed of Selectmen, Planning Board representatives, housing authority board members, industrial development people, the local Chamber of Commerce and citizens. The committees will assist MVPC staff in data collection, needs assessment, site evaluation, establishing criteria, and ranking potential housing/industrial sites.

Other formal advisory boards are the Transportation Policy Advisory Group and the 208 Policy Advisory Committee. Citizen participation is also institutionalized through the OEDP Committee which assists the EDA staff in plan formulation.

Public involvement in transportation planning is important to ensure that the process is responsive to community needs. All transportation planning programs at the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission include an effort to encourage and solicit citizen involvement.

One avenue for citizen participation is through the Transportation Policy Advisory Group (TPAG). The principal function of the group is to make policy recommendations to the transportation staff of the MVPC and to the Commission. Members of the group include appointed delegates from each city or town in the region as well as any interested citizens.

Residents of the MVPC region are also encouraged to participate in the planning process by joining task forces and other special committees. The purpose of these groups is to assist the transportation staff in developing plans and projects which are responsive to the region's needs and desires. Involvement in a task force or a committee does not require a large time commitment - only a few evenings a year are necessary.

Citizen Participation Activities

TPAG Meetings. Quarterly meetings were held to review transportation planning documents and to discuss the MVPC's transportation program.

Transportation of the Elderly and Handicapped. A task force met regularly to assist in developing plans which would make the region's transit system more accessible to these special interest groups. Special meetings were also held in an effort to increase public awareness of this issue.

Air Quality. A task force met several times to assist the MVPC in selecting appropriate strategies for reducing air pollution. Also, many other activities were undertaken in an attempt to publicize the potential benefits of the air quality program.

Since its inception, the MVPC's Water Quality Program has made public participation an integral part of program activities. This participation has been achieved through a variety of mechanisms, including the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC); informational meetings, workshops, and special events; technical assistance brochures and manuals; newspaper, radio, and MVPC newsletter releases; slide shows; and portable visual displays. Of these, perhaps the single most important and effective is the PAC, a group of federal, state, and local representatives who meet on a regular basis to direct and review the agency's water quality planning efforts. The local representatives include planning board and conservation commission members, health agents, sewer and water officials, and treatment plant superintendents, and are a particularly important part of the Committee because of their strong understanding of and commitment to local water resource issues.


Special events are also used as a means of involving the public in regional water quality activities. Two events in particular, the "River Day" canoe trip and the Merrimack River Road Race, attracted the attention of hundreds of citizens throughout the Valley, and sparked a renewed interest not only in the revival of the river but in its attending recreational benefits.

Other approaches, such as the widespread dissemination of technical assistance bulletins (e.g., septic system maintenance and water conservation brochures) are also important public education activities since they provide the region's citizens with the kinds of practical, everyday information needed to make wise use of their water supply and wastewater treatment systems.

Newsletter

The MVPC newsletter is a monthly publication designed to keep citizens and local officials aware of developments

of regional significance. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please contact Dianne O'Neil at 374-0519.



MVPC UPDATE

Vol. 7, No. 6 October 1980 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

INSIDE

INTERSECTION SAFETY STUDY
The MVPC is completing a study of hazardous intersections in the region.

CARD PROGRAM CHANGES
Funds issued to Commercial Area Revitalization Districts.

ELDERLY & FAMILY HOUSING
State funds to subsidize elderly and family housing.

1980 U.S. CENSUS
Preliminary counts for Essex County.

CLAM BED STUDY
Water quality and shellfish samples are being collected in an effort to determine the feasibility of reopening the Merrimack River clam beds.


HAZARDOUS WASTE INFORMATION CENTER
The center will house a central file on hazardous waste issues.


Dates

Oct. 7 Housing Task Force meeting, Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the MVPC office.

Housing Package Enacted

On July 16, 1980, Governor King signed into law a comprehensive housing package, Chapter 490 of the Acts of 1980. It is considered to be the largest single piece of housing legislation ever enacted by the Commonwealth, redefining Massachusetts' commitment to providing its low income citizens with decent, safe, and sanitary housing. The legislation allocates 67 million dollars for elderly housing, as a two year program, providing for an additional 1,600 units of housing in approximately 30 communities; over 1,800 jobs in the construction industry; and an expansion of the aggregate housing program. It also provides for an additional 10 million dollars for scattered-site family public housing programs under Chapter 705. This allows for development or acquisition of 220 units of family housing on a scattered-site basis in approximately 30 communities and up to 300 construction jobs. The (cont. on page 8)





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT


Economic Development Advisory Committee

Educational Grants Available

The Department of Education is currently accepting applications for the Women's Educational Equity Act Program (WEEA). The closing date for applications will be January 27, 1981. This program issues awards to public agencies, private nonprofit organizations and individuals for the purpose of developing educational materials and model programs designed to promote women's educational equity. The materials and programs are developed for replication throughout the United States. The applications

FmHA Industrial Grants


The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) has issued final rules on industrial grants to communities with populations of less than 100 people per square mile outside of urbanized areas. FmHA considers Newburyport, Salisbury and Amesbury to be eligible. Under the new rule, priority will be given to communities with less than 25,000 and for projects in communities with large populations of people with low incomes. These projects will save existing jobs, create jobs or job opportunities, and stabilize the area's economy.



HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

State Elderly and Family Housing Awards

The announcement made by EDC Secretary Byron Matthews on December 1, 1980, it was indicated that none of the three towns were funded for the development of public housing. Only 30 awards were made from among the 90 applicants, for 670 elderly units and 310 family units. Many proposals essentially have met the requirements and fulfilled the priority considerations. Each proposal, although not funded in this round because of strong competition, will receive close consideration in the second round of funding to be announced next spring. In such cases, housing authorities will only need to submit letters




TRANSPORTATION

Vehicle Occupancy Study

Commuter Rail Study

Staff members from the MVPC participated in a survey dealing with the commuter rail service to the Merrimack Valley. This survey was carried out on November 18th and November 25th and was made possible through the cooperation of the Fentons and Maine Corporation. The survey was designed to learn about people's perceptions of the commuter rail service, and to find out from users

Accordingly, the results of this comparison will be used to determine and prioritize the need for highway improvements. When improvements are made, additional travel time data can be collected and used to judge the impact of the changes. Additional information regarding the development of this study may be obtained by contacting Paul Heger at the MVPC office, telephone 374-0519.



MVPC UPDATE

Vol. 7, No. 7 November 1980 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

INSIDE

Condo Conversion: A Problem for the Elderly
A million housing package, as a one year demonstration program to buy condominiums for elderly housing.

Georgetown Seeks Highway Grant
The community of Georgetown needs more than \$1 million in federal and state aid for street improvements.

State Program for Reservoir Acquisition
The Massachusetts Water Resources Commission has announced a program for the early acquisition of reservoir sites.

Open Letter
Congress eliminates funding for criminal justice program.


Dates

Nov. 3 1PM Meeting, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.


Nov. 4 GEDP Committee will meet at Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

EDA Planning Grant

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission has been awarded a one year planning grant by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to coordinate economic development in the region. Emphasis of the program will be on actions to create new jobs through expansion of business, industry, recreation and agriculture. During the first part of the contract, MVPC will be refining the Overall Economic Development Plan (O.E.D.P.) so that the document becomes useful to the region and to the member communities in planning and evaluating economic development proposals and setting goals. Unfortunately, EDA has withheld designation of the region as a district until the O.E.D.P. has been prepared. This delays the Bonus Funding as well, to preparation of the O.E.D.P. will be a top priority. While the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission will serve as the district organization (EDA's term), the Commission will immediately establish an O.E.D.P. Committee representing business, industry, finance, transportation, utilities, the professions, labor, agriculture, education, minorities, and (continued on page 1)



EDA staff recently, from left to right, in a meeting room, Development Director, Edwin H. Smith, Jr., Thomas W. Hoffman, Mary J. MacLellan, Christopher M. Niles, Mary Ann, Susan P. Malone, MVPC Chairman, Dianne O'Neil, Executive Director, Dianne O'Neil, and Richard Gladstone, MVPC Executive Director.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

After reviewing over 100 resumes, interviews, and selecting three finalists for interview by our Personnel Committee, the MVPC has a new Assistant Director. R. Jeffrey Riotta was officially named as Assistant Director by the Commission at its January meeting. Jeff has been an employee of the Commission since February of 1975, where he started with us as a Senior Planner. At such, he is one of the oldest employees of the MVPC in length of service. He came up through the ranks by hard work and excellent native abilities. I personally have known Jeff since I started with the MVPC in February of 1977. Without reservation he has demonstrated that he is one of the hardest working and most capable employees I have served with in my various capacities as an Executive Director. I welcome his appointment, and look forward to a long, fruitful working relationship with Jeff. As many of you may know, I have been working with the Mire Corporation on a demonstration project funded by Secretary Byron Matthews of the Executive Office of Economic Development and the project will attempt to demonstrate that our member communities will save substantial monies by having existing computer facilities in the Valley perform their simple electronic data processing functions in hardware to be utilized for the demonstration is presently in existence at our regional vocational technical schools, which is used at present approximately eight hours per day. Thus, there is plenty of down time on computers that can be utilized by the public sector, which has already paid for

Water Quality

Hazardous Waste Hotline

A toll-free hotline for inquiries about the new federal hazardous waste regulations has been announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Industry and community officials uncertain about any of the regulations' many provisions can receive timely assistance from EPA by calling 1-800-424-3464 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The hotline may be used to answer specific questions on hazardous waste management issues or to request pertinent EPA publications, upcoming Federal Register notices, regulatory interpretation memos, or technical amendments to the regulations.

Right To Appeal

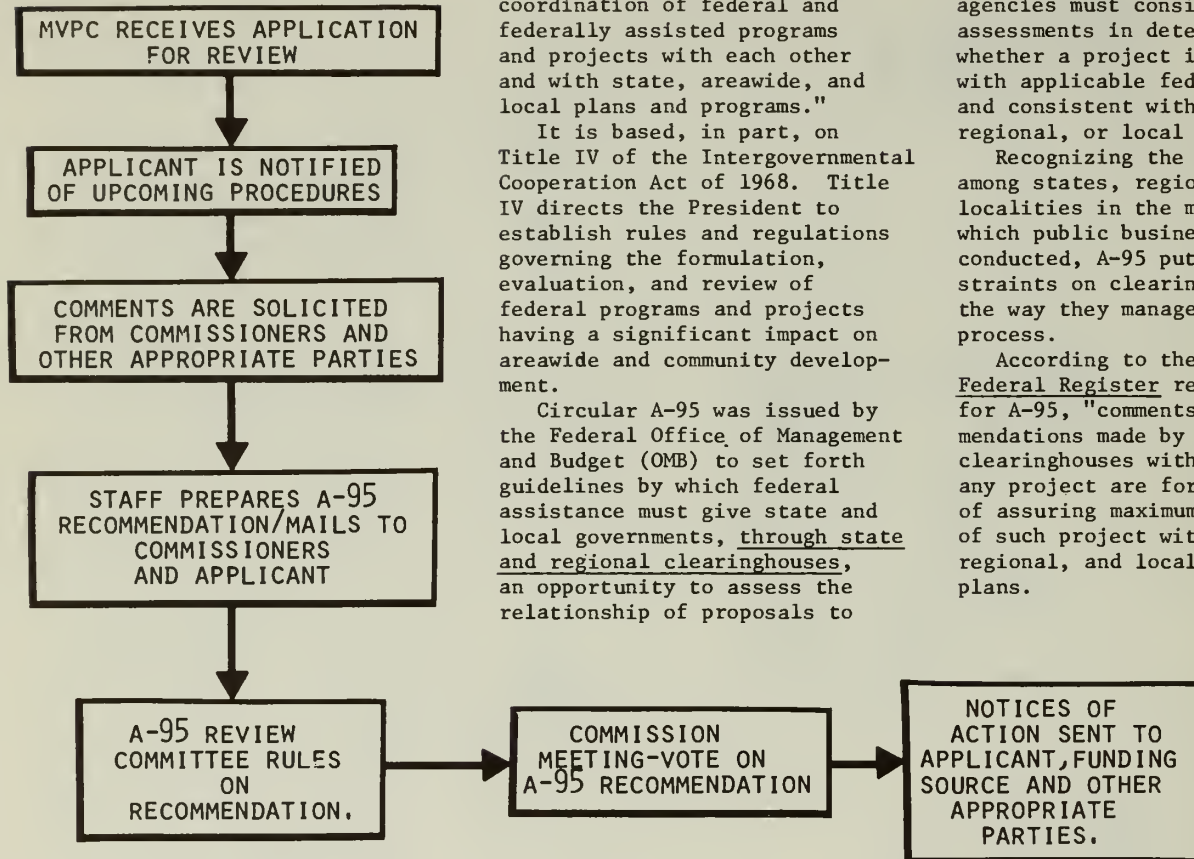
A new section in the C.D.E.C. Citizen Participation Regulations requires each applicant to provide a mechanism for filing objections to the contents of a pre-application or application. At the time a community submits a pre-application/application to MDC, the document must be made available to the public upon request. Anyone wishing to object should contact the MDC Area Office, in this region, Boston. They will consider objections relating to the description of needs and objectives inconsistent with facts and data; the activities inappropriate to the needs and objectives; the working and most application not complying with citizen participation requirements or other applicable laws, or proposing ineligible activities.

More About CARD Plans

Four Merrimack Valley Planning Commission communities have approved Commercial Area Revitalization Districts (CARDs). In addition, Newburyport and North Andover have designated CARD Districts in their downtowns. Based on 1978 state legislation, CARDs (continued on page 4)

A-95 Review Process

MVPC In-House Procedures



The A-95 Review process is designed to "promote maximum coordination of federal and federally assisted programs and projects with each other and with state, areawide, and local plans and programs."

It is based, in part, on Title IV of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968. Title IV directs the President to establish rules and regulations governing the formulation, evaluation, and review of federal programs and projects having a significant impact on areawide and community development.

Circular A-95 was issued by the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to set forth guidelines by which federal assistance must give state and local governments, through state and regional clearinghouses, an opportunity to assess the relationship of proposals to

state, regional, and local plans and programs. Federal funding agencies must consider these assessments in determining whether a project is in accord with applicable federal law and consistent with state, regional, or local concerns.

Recognizing the wide diversity among states, regions, and localities in the manner in which public business is conducted, A-95 puts few constraints on clearinghouses in the way they manage the review process.

According to the most recent Federal Register regulations for A-95, "comments and recommendations made by or through clearinghouses with respect to any project are for the purpose of assuring maximum consistency of such project with state, regional, and local comprehensive plans."

Summary of Reviews

FUNDING AGENCY	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS	TOTAL AMOUNT OF DOLLARS
ACTION	2	\$53,345
CSA (COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMIN.)	8	256,664
DEPT. HEALTH EDUCATION AND WELFARE	11	1,846,722
HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES	2	148,704
DEPT. ELDER SERVICES	1	2,715,922
DEPT. OF ENERGY	1	1,874,700
DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR	1	976,500
DEPT. OF LABOR	2	58,216,799
EDA (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMIN.)	3	1,225,000
EPA (ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)	7	7,849,400
FmHA (FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION)	6	3,522,032
HUD (HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT)	47	44,672,833
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICE	1	122,265
LEAA (LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMIN.)	10	1,374,890
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE	1	150,000
UMTA (URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMIN.)	8	135,408
HCRS(HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE)	1	115,000
	112	\$125,256,184

Finance



During the period between July 1, 1979 and June 30, 1980, the MVPC received a total of \$294,752 in federal and state contracts. Local contracts contributed \$33,806 with another \$60,965 received from assessments on member communities. The total resources for the year amounted to \$394,665.

The major expense of planning activities was the payment of staff salaries.

Planning, administrative and support staff salaries amounted to \$270,043 or 71% of the fiscal years expenses. Indirect costs of \$83,956 (22%), direct costs such as travel and printing totaling \$21,665 (6%), and local expenses of \$2,646 (1%), brought the total to \$378,310.

Revenue Sources

Revenue Sources	
HUD	9.63%
UMTA	16.09
DPW	22.79
DEQE	11.71
LEAA	8.81
DOT	2.53
NEIWPCC	2.34
CZM	0.78
Local Contracts	8.57
Local Assessments	15.45
Other Local Revenues	1.30

Assets		Revenue Sources	
Cash	\$ 8,767	Housing and Urban Development	\$ 37,998
Accounts Receivable:		Urban Mass Transportation	
Federal grants	36,729	Administration	63,521
State grants	32,884	Department of Public Works	89,931
Assessments	60,965	Mass. Dept. of Environmental	
Local contracts	4,250	Quality Engineering	46,206
Sundry	528	Law Enforcement Assistance	
Total Accounts Receivable	135,356	Administration	34,759
Prepaid Expenses	7,661	Department of Transportation	10,000
Office Equipment	6,602	New England Interstate Water	
Less: accumulated depreciation	2,996	Pollution Control	9,250
Office Equipment - Net	3,606	Massachusetts Office of Coastal	
	<u>\$155,390</u>	Zone Management	3,087
		Local Contracts	33,806
		Local Assessments	60,965
		Other Local Revenues	1,088
			<u>\$390,611</u>
		Non-Cash Revenues	4,054
		Total Revenues	<u>\$394,665</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balance		Expenses	
Notes Payable	\$ 11,500	Direct Salaries	\$159,395
Accounts Payable - Consultants, etc.	1,164	Direct Fringe Benefits	26,988
Accrued Warrant Payable	9,726	Indirect Costs	167,616
Employee Withholdings	4,086	Printing and Special Supplies	3,052
Accrued Payroll	6,307	Travel	5,078
Accrued Expenses	1,328	In-Kind Services	4,054
Contact Advances	49,663	Consultants	4,000
Grants Payable	1,712	Outside Labor	569
Total Liabilities	<u>85,486</u>	Equipment	-0-
Fund Balance		Meeting Expense	1,540
Unrestricted	13,347	Project Inspection Fee	1,000
Allocated to matching share		Other Direct Costs	2,372
requirements and Local Tech-		Local Expenditures	<u>2,646</u>
nical Assistance	56,557	Total	<u>\$378,310</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>69,904</u>	Surplus	\$ 16,355
	<u>\$155,390</u>		

Committee Assignments

Executive

George Moran - Chairman
Fred Gabriel
William Slusher
Donald Shea
Edward Irvin

Finance

William Slusher - Chairman
June Cook
Salvatore Yemma
David Lenihan
L. Donald Phillips

Personnel

George Moran - Chairman
Gayton Osgood
Donald Shea

Program

Fred Gabriel - Chairman
Donald Shea
Edward Irvin
Frank Romano
Gayton Osgood

A-95 Review

William Slusher - Chair.
June Cook
Arthur Evans
David Lenihan
Lawrence Ogden

By-Laws

Curtis Walton - Chairman
L. Donald Phillips
Cynthia Lemieux

Housing Task Force

Gayton Osgood
Lawrence Ogden

TPAG (Transportation Policy Advisory Group)

Richard Swain
Cynthia Lemieux

208 (Water Quality)

Cynthia Lemieux
Fred Gabriel

Commission Attendance

	July	Aug*	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Amesbury	C		A	A	C	C	-	C	C	-	-	A
Andover	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Georgetown	C		C	-	-	C	-	A	A	A	A	C
Groveland	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Haverhill	-		C	A	C	-	-	-	-	-	C	-
Lawrence	-		-	-	C	-	A	A	A	A	-	A
Merrimac	C		C	C	-	-	-	-	C/A	-	A	C
Methuen	C		C	C	C	-	C	C	-	C	-	C
Newbury	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	-
Newburyport	C/A		A	C	C	C/A	C/A	A	C/A	C/A	-	C/A
North Andover	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Rowley	C		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A
Salisbury	C		C	C	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
West Newbury	-		-	-	-	-	C	-	-	-	C	C

C = Commissioner

* = No meeting held

A = Alternate

- = No Representative Attended

Staff

July 1, 1979 - June 30, 1980

Dennis Adams, Cartography - Cartographic Assistant
Dorothy Altman, Housing - Senior Planner
Cindy Amirault, Tufts - Planning Intern
Kathleen Bartolini - Assistant Executive Director
Donald Brais, Cartography, Junior Planner/Cartographer
Cheryl Breen, Water Quality - Junior Planner
Patricia Chamberlain, Secretary
Leland Collins, Housing - Planning Aide
Joan DiTore, Housing - Planning Aide
Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Transportation - Junior Planner
Richard Gladstone, Executive Director
Paul Hajec, Transportation - Senior Planner
Alexander Harris, Transportation - Senior Planner
Susan Harrison, Administrative Secretary
William Hart, Transportation Project Manager
James Heidell, Transportation - Junior Planner
Paul Laponius, Transportation - Planning Aide
Alan Macintosh, Water Quality - Hydrologist
Susan Marshall, Criminal Justice - Acting Project Manager
Kamfar Moghini, Bradford - Planning Intern
Donald Murphy, Transportation - Planning Aide
Paula Newcomb, Local Contracts - Senior Planner
Dianne O'Neil, Secretary
Matthew O'Neil, Criminal Justice - Planning Aide
Patricia Paquette, Secretary
Kathleen Pazzanese, Receptionist
R. Jeffrey Riotte, Water Quality Project Manager
Sharon Ruocco, Administrative Assistant
Samuel Sacco, Transportation - Senior Planner
Linda Sloss, Secretary
Mary Jo Smith, Housing - Senior Planner
Irene Steinnen, Receptionist -
Frank L. Sylvis, Transportation - Junior Planner
Carl Walden, Accountant
James Whittaker, Criminal Justice - Planning Aide

Publications

Fiscal Year 1979-1980

- Accessory Apartments; Draft June, 1979; Final January, 1980
- Accessibility Transition Plan for the MVRTA; June, 1980
- AHOP; Draft January, 1979; Final March, 1980
- Town of Amesbury Comprehensive Plan 1980-2000; 1979
- Town of Andover Administrative Space Needs Study; 1979
- Town of Andover Population Analysis; 1979
- Bikeway Development Process (outline); October, 1979
- Dirty Waters MVPC Rivers; Draft June, 1979; Final January, 1980
- Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Plan Update; April, 1979
- Final Water Quality Status Report; June, 1979
- Haverhill Area Rate Reorganization Study; March, 1980
- Haverhill Public Library Comprehensive Plan; 1979
- Housing Element; March, 1979
- I-93 Corridor Planning Study; January, 1980
- Land Use Element; March, 1979
- Market Research Study Plan; April, 1979
- Marketing Plan for the MVRTA; April, 1979
- North Andover Open Space Plan; 1980
- Prospectus; February, 1979; December, 1979
- Recreational Opportunities Associated with Wastewater Treatment Facilities in the MVPC Region; January, 1980
- Septage Management; July, 1980
- Sludge Management; July, 1980
- Summary Report North Andover Resource Recovery Facilities Corridor Planning Study; January, 1980
- Summary Report Rocks Village Bridge Corridor Planning Study; January, 1979
- Transportation Annual Review Report (1979); January, 1980
- Transportation Improvement Program; September, 1979; September, 1980
- Transportation Plan (TSME and Long Range Elements); January, 1980
- Transportation Systems Management Element (TSME); March, 1979
- Unified Work Process; December, 1979, December, 1980
- MVPC Annual Report, 1979, March, 1980
- Septic Systems - An Owner's Manual, January, 1979
- We Never Know What We've Got Till It's Gone - Domestic Water Conservation, January, 1979

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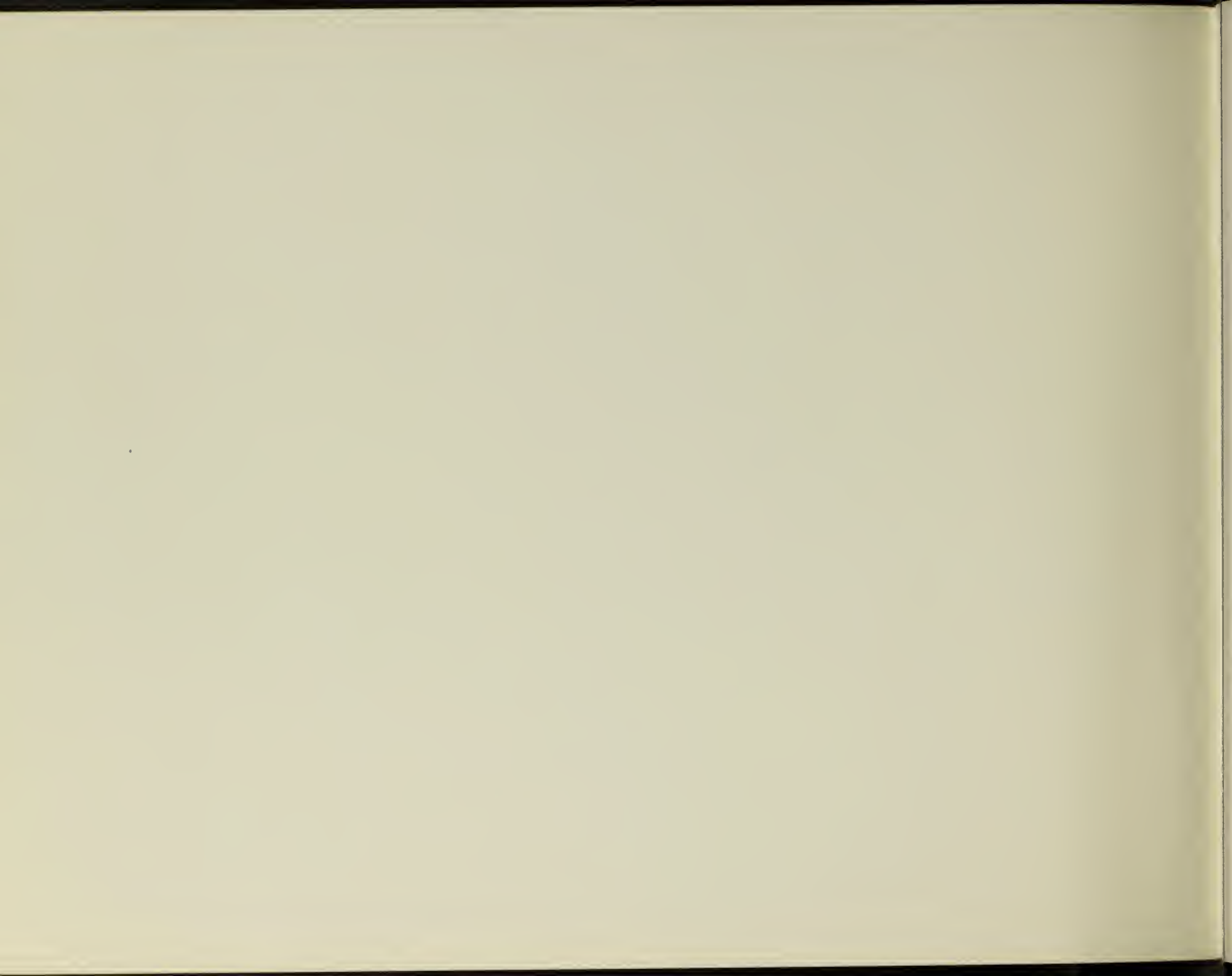
MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION



GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
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1978-1979

ANNUAL REPORT



COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Trolley Cars at Water and Chandler Streets,
Lawrence. Photographed on April 9, 1919 by
George H. Lock. Courtesy Lawrence Public
Library.

This report was prepared by the Merrimack
Valley Planning Commission under the direction
of Richard M. Gladstone, Executive Director.

Major contributors to this report were:

Donald E. Brais
Stephen A. Estes-Smargiassi
James A. Heidell
Jeffrey K. Young

Typists:

Susan R. Harrison
Linda L. Sloss
Patricia D. Paquette
Patricia H. Chamberlain

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"...A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH AND CONTRIBUTION
TO LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING EFFORTS."

Fiscal Year 1979 was a year of unprecedented growth and contribution to local community planning efforts.

During the year, the agency expanded its contract base, as well as increased its technical and professional staff by 56%, from 16 to 25 full-time employees. Our Annual Budget increased 65%, from \$254,900 in FY1978 to \$420,000 in FY1979, setting a new contract base record.

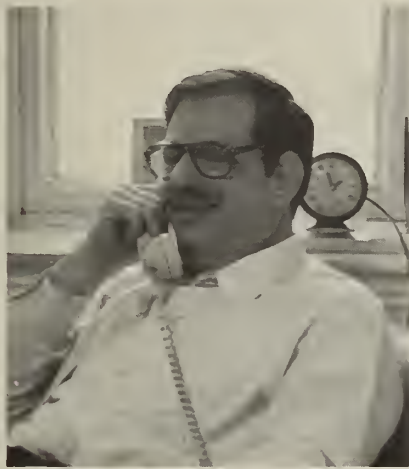
The combined enthusiasm of both Commissioners and staff regarding agency and local assistance at the implementation stage of planning have resulted in meaningful effort being placed on the broadening of capabilities, as well as on changing program design.

As the past year has proven, our success

depends on the complete cooperation and dedication of staff and individual communities. This fact is critical not only for the upcoming year, but in the years to follow, and we should attempt to follow that practice as much as possible. Finally, I would especially like to commend our employees for their contribution to the MVPC's achievements of the past year. Their enthusiasm and dedication were, and will continue to be, major factors in the MVPC's progress. We look forward with anticipation to the accomplishments and advances which lie ahead in the future. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I transmit the twenty-first annual report of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission.

Sincerely,

Curtis R. Walton
Chairman



" . . .THE MVPC HAS MOVED INTO NEW AREAS OF
REGIONAL CONCERN."

The Fiscal year 1978-79 was a very good year for regional planning in the Merrimack Valley. The year saw the addition of another community to the Commission, an increase in the Commission staff, and an expansion of the scope of planning activities.

MVPC is, by contractual obligation with state and federal agencies, product-oriented. Both the Commissioners and the staff are determined that one of the agency's long term goals will be to make their products the best in the Commonwealth. Already, several programs have received positive comments or have had results that were nationally recognized. First, due to our performance on 701, our funding was increased by \$5,000, despite a national-level cut in that program's monies. Second, the staff wrote an excellent area-wide housing opportunity

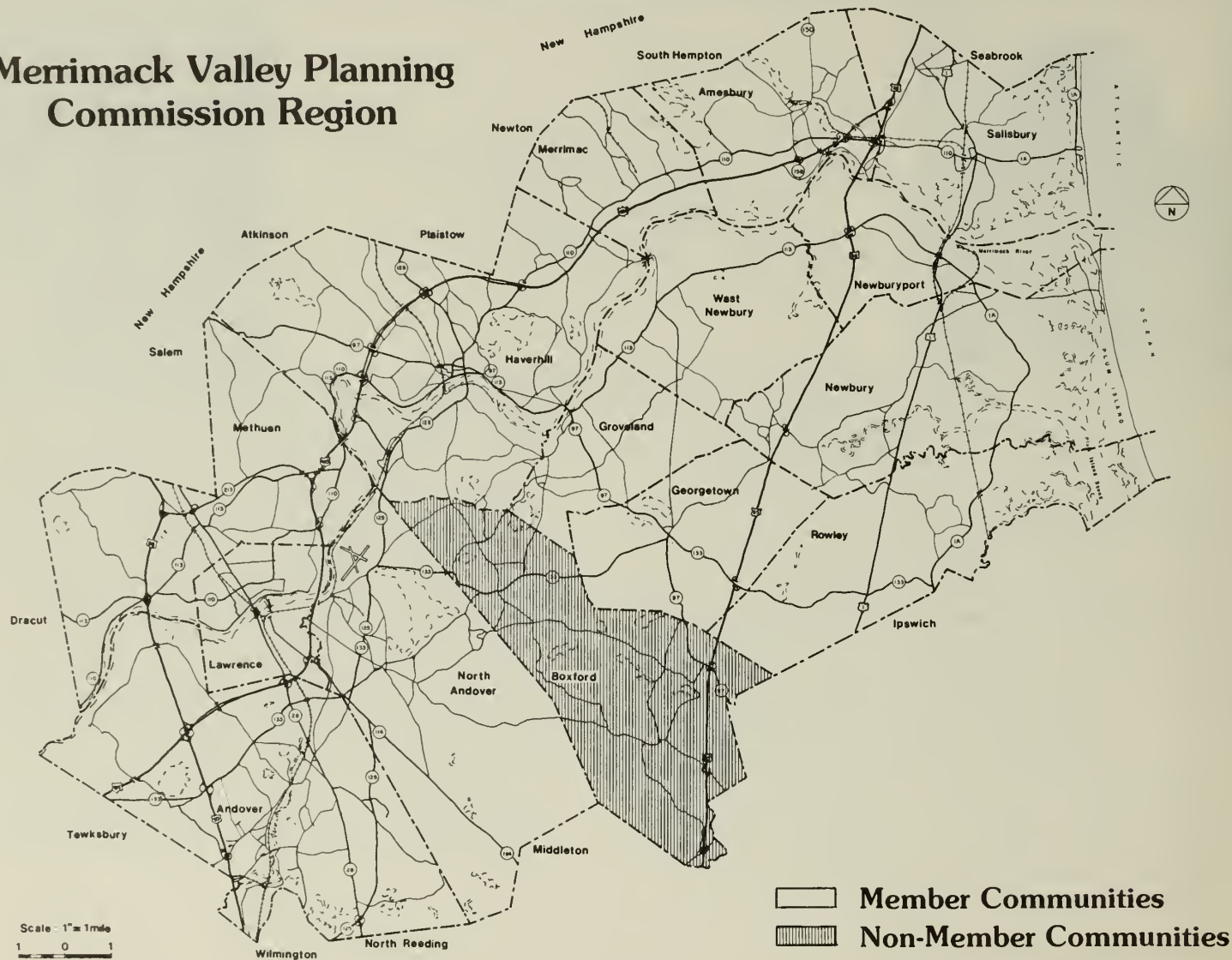
plan (AHOP), which was one of twenty-three plans nationally approved throughout the United States. Third, and especially relevant in our dealings with local communities on a one to one basis, the MVPC wrote four HUD community development block pre-applications, and assisted in a fifth. The Boston area office funded three out of the four applications completed by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission.

With the addition of two new contracts, the MVPC has moved into new areas of regional concern. These contracts also allowed for the expansion and diversification of the staff.

On behalf of the Commission and staff, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Town of Rowley, our newest member community.

Richard M. Gladstone
Executive Director

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Region



The MVPC – The Regional Perspective

Many of the problems which face communities in the Merrimack Valley are not limited by individual community boundaries, but are regional or statewide in scope. Attempts at solutions by isolated groups, however well conceived and implemented, can often fail because they address only a limited segment of a larger problem. The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, as a regional planning agency, is able to address problems which affect the region as a whole, and to propose regional solutions.

The Merrimack Valley region is comprised of fifteen communities. At present, fourteen are members of the Commission and appoint representatives. These representatives provide policy direction for comprehensive planning in the region.

The Commission employs an Executive Director and a professional as well as a support staff to undertake planning activities. The Commission receives annual funding from participating communities on a per capital basis and special funding from state and federal agencies to conduct specific planning projects.

The MVPC staff studies regional problems and formulates comprehensive regional plans. These plans, which concern such areas as land use, transportation, housing, recreation, environmental quality, economic development and social welfare are based on goals and objectives adopted by the Commission.

The Commission's goals and objectives include providing equal opportunity and decent housing to all persons, and promoting a balanced relationship between society and the environment, responsible land utilization, a balanced transportation system, and adequate and varied recreational opportunities.

The MVPC strives to maintain a regional perspective in seeking the solutions to multi-community problems. The primary goal of the Commission is to make the Merrimack Valley a desirable area for living, working and recreation, both now and in the future.



Community Representatives

Officers

Curtis Walton, Chairman
 Russ (George) Moran, Vice-Chairman
 William E. Slusher, Treasurer
 Don Shea, Secretary

Methuen

Ralph Richards (R)
 Donald Shea
Kevin Haggerty

Newbury

Curtis Walton
 Arthur Allen (R)
James O'Connell

Community Representative

Amesbury

Cynthia Lemieux
 Roland Lemieux (R)
Richard Whaley

Newburyport

E. James Gaines (R)
 Fred Gabriel
 John Leigh (R)
L. Donald Phillips

Andover

Russ Moran
 Donald Mulvey (R)
Paul Teplitz

North Andover

Michael Roberts (R)
 Joyce DiTore
Gayton Osgood

Georgetown

Holly Haller
Donald Peterson

Rowley

Gary Hanson
Howard Reith

Groveland

William Slusher
Leo Downing

Salisbury

Ann Carey (R)
 Edward (Ted) Irvin
Eugene Janvrin

Haverhill

Joseph Do'Orazio
Richard Swain

West Newbury

June Cook
Shirley Griffin

Lawrence

John Stundza
 Michael Tarshi (R)
John Pavlenkov, Jr.

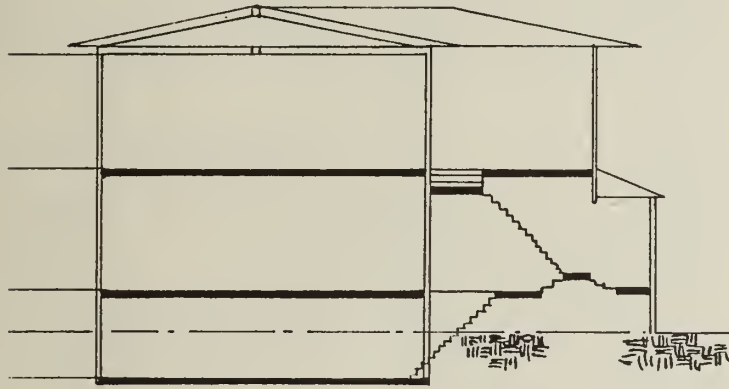
Merrimac

Arthur Evans
 Carolyn Edwards (R)
Richard Waterhouse

(R) = Resigned
Italics = Alternate

Community Assistance

The MVPC is concerned not only with the Merrimack Valley region as a whole, but also with each individual community. In order to maintain and promote the Merrimack Valley as a desirable place in which to live, work, and plan, projects must be undertaken at the local, as well as at the regional level. To achieve this end, the MVPC provides a variety of assistance to member communities.



CROSS SECTION

Local Technical Assistance

The MVPC annually allocates 87 hours of professional technical assistance to each community. This Local Technical Assistance (LTA) time can be used by the community to supplement its own planning efforts, to have grant applications written, zoning bylaws updated, subdivision regulations examined, or almost any problem studied

All the communities in the region benefit from this program, particularly those without full time planning personnel, as they can use their LTA time to study problems they would otherwise be unable to address.

Major projects completed under the LTA program during Fiscal Year 1979 included the following:

- Amesbury - The MVPC staff assisted in writing a Community Development Block Grant application for the renovation and conversion of the Ordway School. The building will be used by Community Action and Elder Services.
- Andover - The MVPC assisted in the preparation, administration, and analysis of a transportation needs survey. The results were used by the Commuter Rail Study Committee to develop their position.
- Groveland- The MVPC staff wrote a pre-application for Community Development funds to set up a third well. The new well would replace a contaminated one.
- Haverhill- Training was provided to City staff and CETA workers on properly conducting a land use survey. Assistance was provided to the Haverhill Growth Alliance, a group of labor and business leaders concerned with Haverhill's image and future.
- Lawrence - A cost/benefit study of existing and proposed housing projects was conducted.
- Merrimac - A Community Development Block Grant application for housing rehabilitation was prepared.

- Methuen - The MVPC conducted a study of the relative benefits and liabilities of Methuen and Boxborough. The report, which concentrated on suitability for industrial development, was used as an attempt to attract the New England Regional Trade Center to Methuen.
- The Open Space/Recreation Plan, Methuen at Leisure, was completed. This report, conducted cooperatively with the Planning Department, studied the community's open space and recreation needs.
- Newbury - The MVPC reviewed and commented on the subdivision rules and regulations prepared by a consultant for the Town of Newbury.
- North Andover - The MVPC staff prepared a Community Development Block Grant pre-application for housing rehabilitation in the Town of North Andover. The MVPC is reviewing and updating the Open Space/Recreation Plan for North Andover.

Local Contracts

In addition to assistance provided through LTA time, the MVPC enters into contracts to provide planning studies on the local level. Three contracts carried over from previous fiscal years were completed during Fiscal Year 1979.

Amesbury Comprehensive Plan - The Amesbury Planning Board contracted with the MVPC to formulate a comprehensive plan for the Town

The plan was to state the goals and objectives of the Town and to provide guidelines for future development. The basis of the plan are studies, begun in 1977, which include; land use, physical features, population, transportation, economic base, and community facilities. These studies are used to produce a twenty-year comprehensive plan. This plan will be used to guide growth and development in the Town of Amesbury.

Zoning Ordinance and Land Use Plan for Methuen - The City Known as the Town of Methuen contracted with the MVPC to review and revise their zoning ordinance. The revisions to the ordinance bring it into compliance with Chapter 40A (808) of the 1975 Massachusetts General Laws. The ordinance is comprised of several sections including: definition, establishment of districts, use tables, flood plain zoning, dimensional controls, and administration.

Haverhill Public Library Comprehensive Plan - The MVPC has completed an 18-month study of the Haverhill Public Library system. The MVPC was chosen by the Haverhill Library Board of Directors to perform the comprehensive plan. The MVPC was the first regional planning agency to perform one of these studies funded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

The study examined all aspects of library operations and made recommendations on how they might be improved to better serve the area residents. The character of the City of Haverhill was summarized, along with the present and future opportunities for the library to provide services to the community.

Recommendations were made concerning such areas as personnel policy and job descriptions,

security, physical layout, handicapped accessibility, the Bradford Branch, and the Bookmobile. At the time the plan was completed, action had been taken or was contemplated on several of the recommendations.

The MVPC hopes that other libraries in the region will be able to utilize the Commission for similar comprehensive plans.

Each member community of the MVPC is assigned a professional staff person as a liaison. This person coordinates all planning efforts in the community, acts as a contact person, and monitors the local conditions and pertinent news.

Community Liaisons

AMESBURY	William Hart
ANDOVER	Kathy Bartolini
BOXFORD	James Heidell
GEORGETOWN	Susan Marshall
GROVELAND	Stephen Estes-Smargiassi
HAVERHILL	Richard Gladstone
LAWRENCE	Richard Gladstone
MERRIMAC	Paula Newcomb
METHUEN	Donald Brais
NEWBURY	Samuel Sacco, Jr.
NEWBURYPORT	R. Jeffrey Riotte
NORTH ANDOVER	R. Jeffrey Riotte
ROWLEY	Cheryl Breen
SALISBURY	Alan Macintosh
WEST NEWBURY	Dorothy Altman

FAPRS

The Federal Assistance Program Retrieval System, more commonly known as "FAPRS," is a service developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and maintained by the Federal Office of Management and Budget. This service rapidly identifies programs of interest to local governments or individuals via a computerized index of the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. Most of the Catalog's 1,100 programs are classified by (1) the problems for which they provide assistance, and (2) the eligibility criteria for applicants. The computer prints out, in list form, pertinent program titles and catalog numbers. It is then necessary to look up programs of specific interest in the Catalog for complete details on requirements, application, etc.

The MVPC processes FAPRS requests as a service, charging only the \$5.00 required by the University of Massachusetts, which provides the computer printouts.

Housing and Urban Development

Community Development

During 1979, the MVPC provided all member communities with free technical assistance to prepare Community Development Block Grant pre-applications. Amesbury, Georgetown, Groveland, and Merrimac requested MVPC staff time to write a citizen participation plan, legal notices, proposal forms, and pre-applications. Staff also attended public hearings. Amesbury proposed to renovate the Ordway School for the Council on Aging and Community Action, Inc. Georgetown proposed to install a drainage system at Rock Pond to eliminate flooding of low and moderate income housing. Groveland proposed to install a new well. Merrimac wanted to complete a housing rehabilitation program.

In March of 1979, Georgetown was invited to submit a final application for funding. Then in May, Amesbury, Merrimac, and North Andover were also invited to submit final applications. The four final applications were prepared by MVPC staff to meet the June 15 deadline and were subsequently approved. The MVPC will be administering the Georgetown grant.

In addition to the preparation of CDBG applications, MVPC staff prepared an application for "incentive" funding from Massachusetts for "distressed" communities with action-oriented proposals to implement the State's growth policy objectives. Salisbury was awarded \$18,000 to remedy the traffic circulation problems at Salisbury Center, and to develop the walkways at Salisbury Beach.

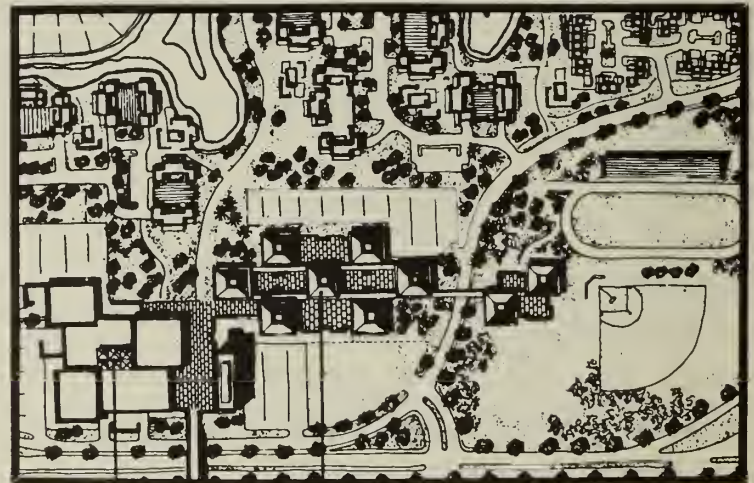
Land Use

The MVPC began the implementation of the regional land use plan during FY79. The regional land use plan was developed by comparing the existing zoning patterns in the region with the physical and environmental conditions present. Local zoning was supported where densities and uses were generally compatible with the capacity of the land to accommodate development in an environmentally sound manner.

Local planning boards received printed final copies of the Land Use Plan and a set of overlay maps for their community that were used to determine the generalized land use zones.

Each planning board was then asked to comment in writing on the appropriateness of MVPC recommendations for their community. Technical assistance was used by several communities to revise their zoning. This process will be continued.

Implementation of the regional land use plan was also carried out through: A-95 and Chapter 808 reviews, review of Agricultural



Preservation applications, Environmental Notification Forms, and industrial development projects. In addition, a workshop on Growth Management Tools was held. During FY 1979, the MVPC began to develop the concept of river corridor planning. The idea of establishing a "greenbelt" plan for the Merrimack came into focus. It was pointed out, however, that any land use plan developed for the river corridor should address not only open space and recreation, but also other land uses, such as residential, commercial, and industrial uses. A work program was developed in conjunction with the Northern Middlesex Area Commission.



In conjunction with the planning program for the Merrimack River, an assessment of the Massachusetts and Federal Scenic Rivers Programs was undertaken along with a fairly comprehensive listing of other programs that could be utilized to effect wise land use planning and implementation along the Merrimack's banks.

Housing

The major accomplishment in housing was the completion and HUD approval of the Area-Wide Housing Opportunity Plan (A-HOP). Amesbury, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence, Merrimac, Methuen, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, and Salisbury voted to participate. The A-HOP is a cooperative effort between the MVPC and member communities to increase housing opportunities in the region as a whole and to avoid undue concentrations of low-income and minority households.

The Housing Task Force continued to meet on a monthly basis throughout the year. The Task Force is made up of members of housing authorities, councils on aging, realtors, builders, social service agencies, community development offices, and citizen groups, including the League of Women Voters, NAACP, and Spanish organizations. The Task Force reviewed the A-HOP during its preparation and following HUD approval. Other topics covered at the Task Force meetings included Chapter 705 (family housing), Farmer's Home Administration programs, mobile homes, and CETA funds for housing rehabilitation.

Workshops on housing issues were also conducted by the MVPC. The topics included: Must Housing Cost So Much? and Affirmative Action Requirements for MVPC communities. The Housing Element was also distributed to MVPC communities. Future work will include application for A-HOP bonus funding, assisting HUD with allocation of housing funds in the region based on A-HOP goals, and providing housing information throughout the region.

Water Quality

Section 203 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 initiated a water quality planning program that constituted a major planning effort by the MVPC in 1979.

The water quality planning program in the lower Merrimack River Basin was largely an investigation of non-point source water pollution (pollution generated from no readily identifiable pipe, conduit, or point of origin). In this regard, such sources of non-point pollution analyzed included: (a) pollution leaching from failing septic systems, (b) pollution generated due to expected inadequate disposal of sludge from treatment plants and septage from septic tanks, (c) pollution generated from improperly operated or located landfills, (d) industrial wastewater disposal



problems, (e) stormwater issues, (f) agricultural run-off concerns and combined sewer overflows.

Over the past year, the staff of the MVPC has identified numerous water pollution problem areas, and made recommendations for water pollution abatement and further study. A Water Quality Status Report was produced in June of 1979 which aggregated the findings of the water quality staff.

One of the major findings discussed in that report was the discovery that a number of the MVPC communities have little or no control of the disposal of septage from septic tanks. The report, therefore, recommended that communities license their septage haulers and clearly identify the site of the disposal on the license. In addition, it was recommended that communities establish formal relationships with the Haverhill and Greater Lawrence treatment plants as proper sites for septage disposal.

In terms of septic systems, an attempt was made to isolate pockets of failing septic systems in the MVPC Region. Almost every community that desired long term use of septic systems as a means of handling sewage disposal had areas of failing systems. Although the cause of all failures cannot be determined precisely at this time, it was determined that formal septic tank inspection and maintenance (pumping) programs to aid in long life of the system have not been generally conducted in the region. This has no doubt aggravated the existing problems.

Another major stumbling block towards preventing water pollution has been the general absence of enforcement of programs and laws already established. Pollution generators such as landfills have been allowed to persist even

though gross violations have been detected leading to severe water pollution impacts. If we are to control these impacts, a concerted effort by all levels of government is necessary to enforce regulations and stop violators.

The issue of combined sewer (sewers that carry both sanitary sewage and stormwaters) overflows was also another area of concern expressed by the Water Quality Status Report. Previously published Environmental Protection Agency documents indicated that combined sewer overflows were the main reason that the Merrimack River did not meet water quality standards. The MVPC Report was unable to measure the impact of combined sewers on the Merrimack due to lack of sufficient sampling and stormwater modeling data. It was, therefore, recommended that the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control develop a stormwater model for the Merrimack River. It was also suggested that an intensive sampling program be instituted to help properly assess water quality impacts and needs.

Of major concern in the water pollution control field has been the recent emergence of industrial and hazardous wastes affecting water quality. The Water Quality Status Report took a first step in the assessment of potential industrial pollution sources by developing an inventory of approximately 850 industries by standard industrial classification codes. The Report stated that it will be up to the local Boards of Health to verify and help enforce proper disposal procedures for materials such as industrial sludges and other discharges. Without proper control of these wastes, pollution of groundwaters affecting drinking water supplies may result. No one in the Merrimack Valley has to be reminded of this very dangerous possibility, as

two communities in the MVPC region already have had their water supplies closed down due to industrial contaminants.

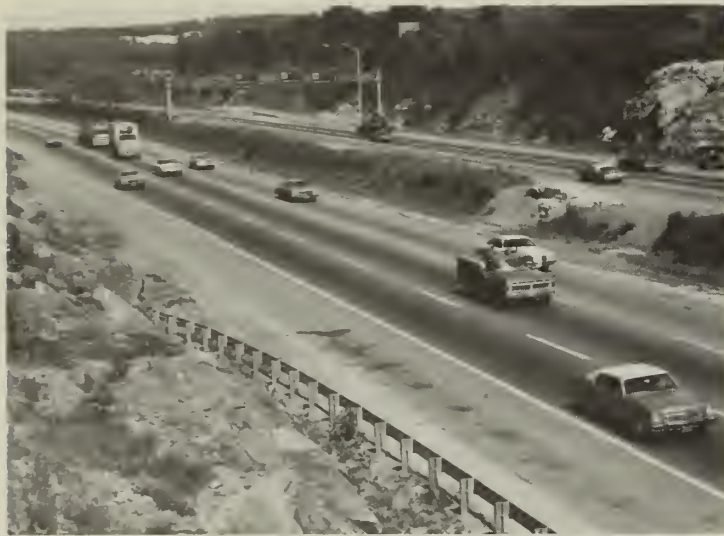
The above discussion presented the major water quality issues assessed over the last year in the water pollution control program of the MVPC. In future years, emphasis will be placed on implementing recommendations. There is no question, however, that considerable additional work is necessary to properly assess pollution sources and their impacts. It is hoped that the federal government will support this program to insure that the purpose of the Clean Water Acts is carried out.



Transportation

Transportation Planning

The purpose of the transportation planning effort is to develop an efficient and cost effective transportation system for the Merrimack Valley which complements existing and projected land uses, and the region's social and economic characteristics. Transportation planning is divided into two programs: transit planning and highway planning and management. Both programs are coordinated to provide comprehensive planning for the Merrimack Valley region.



"3C" PLANNING PROCESS

Federal and State funding for Merrimack Valley's transportation planning program and transportation projects is dependent upon the Region having a certified "3C" process. The 3C's stand for comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing.

Comprehensive - Transportation planning must include all modes. Plans must be linked

to regional growth and development, land use, economic, social and environmental concerns.

Cooperative - Regional planning must synthesize local and regional needs with state and federal policies and regulations.

Continuing - The planning process must be dynamic. It should adjust to changes in local priorities and new regulations.

The "3C" process is the framework within which all the MVPC transportation planning programs are conducted.

In 1978, the MVPC signed a contract with the Massachusetts Department of Public Works to perform the "3C" transportation planning program for the Merrimack Valley Region. The contract involves four major parts.

MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT - The MVPC staff provided both technical and administrative support to the 3C transportation planning process. Some of the more important accomplishments to date are:

- support of the Transportation Policy Advisory Group, the forum for public involvement in planning.

- development of a Unified Work Program which describes all transportation planning activities which will be performed under the contract.

- development of a Prospectus, describing work completed and anticipated to be completed within a five year period.

- development of journey-to-work data for residents of Merrimack Valley: This data aids the MVPC in estimating the demand for transportation facilities.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN - The MVPC updated the two elements of the Transportation Plan. These elements are: the Long Range Element, which outlines long range goals and projects planned for the region; and the Transportation Systems

Management Element, which coordinates transportation projects of the individual communities and identifies short term improvements.

The purpose of the Transportation Plan is to develop transportation objectives which are consistent with the Merrimack Valley's regional land use plan and the social, economic, environmental, and energy conservation goals and objectives. The Plan is reviewed annually to insure that it is responsive to changes in the region.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - This document is an annual listing of all major transportation projects in the Merrimack Valley Region. This list provides a priority ranking for funding transportation projects developed in the Transportation Plan. The project listing



is broken down by funding category. Categories cover activities such as roadway safety, roadway improvements, bridge rehabilitation, and transit improvements. Within each funding category, projects are either listed in the Annual Element, to be implemented in the upcoming fiscal year, or in the 2-5 year implementation element.

Special Studies

ROCKS VILLAGE BRIDGE STUDY - The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission finished its study of the Rocks Village Bridge in late 1978. The Rocks Village Bridge, which connects Haverhill and West Newbury, is an old structure which is becoming structurally unsafe. The bridge is an historic structure and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The MVPC concluded that the bridge is an an important transportation link in the region. However, there are safety problems associated with the bridge's structure. The MVPC, in conjunction with citizen groups, examined a number of solutions for eliminating the safety hazards due to the bridge's deteriorating structure. Based upon citizens' comments and the study recommendations, the MVPC voted to increase preventative maintenance and limit truck traffic to maximize the remaining life span of the bridge.

NORTH ANDOVER ACCESS STUDY - The disposal of solid waste is becoming a critical problem in the Merrimack Valley Region. A combination of a lack of space for landfills and increased federal and state legislation designed to protect the environment has created the need for new methods for disposing of solid waste. One new method is to recover and recycle the waste.

Construction of a regional solid waste recovery facility is currently proposed for a site in North Andover. This facility would generate a significant amount of truck and related traffic.

In July, 1978, the MVPC, at the request of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works, undertook a study which identified potential access problems, and feasible solutions to the problems.

The MVPC studied the alternatives, met with local officials and citizens, and concluded that the best alternative is to improve the existing access.

The MVPC has also recommended that a new access road alternative be considered as a potentially feasible alternative if needed, based on future monitoring of the area.

Transit Planning

The MVPC has been under contract with the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (U.S. Department of Transportation) to undertake transportation planning activities. The MVPC is cooperatively involved with the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) in the development of a regional mass transit



system. Major transit activities for FY79 included the following:

- Transit Marketing Research Study - This report summarized the results of four surveys conducted to determine bus rider characteristics and attitudes, employer and employee travel needs, and public sentiment towards mass transit and bus service improvements.

- Marketing Plan for the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority - Based on the information in the Transit Marketing Research Report, a Marketing Plan for the MVRTA was prepared. The plan covers aspects of transit marketing such as market research, service development, advertising/promotion, and customer services. The plan recommends actions to be undertaken by the MVRTA for fiscal years 1980 and 1981 in order to establish a Marketing Program.

- Service Reorganization Study of the Lawrence Area Bus System and the Haverhill Area Bus System - A review of the existing bus routes operating in the communities of Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover, and Haverhill was conducted. This review included detailed recommendations for changing service in the Lawrence area system over the next five years. A recommendation to study the expansion of service in the Haverhill area was also made in this report.

- Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Plan Update - A review of the Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Plan completed in 1978 was conducted to determine the progress towards implementing the recommendations. The report also developed service policies for elderly and handicapped transportation, service monitoring and evaluation forms, and estimates of the number of persons with mobility limitations

Law Enforcement

The Criminal Justice Division of the MVPC, which is called the Essex Region Advisory Board on Criminal Justice (ABCJ), was established in January of 1979 and is supported by a contract with the Massachusetts Committee on Criminal Justice (MCCJ). The Essex Region is "Region IV" among the seven regional Criminal Justice Development Agencies in Massachusetts and encompasses criminal justice planning for 37 communities and over 700,000 residents of all of Essex and Suffolk Counties, excluding Boston. The Region IV Criminal Justice Development Agency is the only regional office affiliated with a regional planning agency.

The Criminal Justice Development Agencies and their Advisory Boards are created by Executive Order of the Governor; and Board members are appointed by the Governor. The ABCJ Board has eleven members who meet monthly. The Board includes the Speaker of the House, the Essex County Sheriff and District Attorney, a State Senator, Mayor, Chief Selectmen, City Councillor, and two probation officers. The Chief Justice of the District Courts was appointed Chairman, but he declined. In the interim, ABCJ was headed by Vice-Chairperson Senator Sharon Pollard.

The purpose of the ABCJ is to improve the Essex Region's Criminal Justice System. Improvements are defined as being "only those changes which increase that system's ability to reduce crime." ABCJ's primary tools are federal (LEAA) Law Enforcement Assistance Administration funds which it awards to local grantees (in cooperation with MCCJ) to conduct improvement and demonstration projects. Staff is responsible for monitoring, evaluating, and supervising the general administration of those grants, now more than \$400,000 for 12 projects in the areas of Corrections, Probation, Courts,

Police, and Juvenile Justice.

ABCJ's purpose, however, goes beyond awarding and administering these particular LEAA funds which flow through MCCJ. ABCJ also assists local and county agencies and groups in seeking funds directly from LEAA. In addition, the agency actively uses its position to try to bring together the resources of community, government, and businesses in a common effort to reduce crime, whether or not federal funds are involved.

Primarily, ABCJ is a planning unit, dedicating its resources to the development of strategies to create an effective Criminal Justice System. Responsibilities include conducting program area needs assessments, collecting and analyzing criminal justice data, and developing a Regional Plan and funding guidelines for the expenditure of LEAA funds in the Essex Region.

Public Participation and Communication

Public Participation

Successful regional planning is dependent upon active public involvement. Citizen participation ensures that planning activities are not only responsive to, but also supportive of the communities' needs.

The MVPC encourages citizen participation in its planning programs. Ongoing citizen advisory groups include: the Transportation Policy Advisory Group (TPAG) for transportation planning, the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) for water quality planning, the Housing Task Force for Housing and Urban Development planning, and a citizen policy board for the Advisory Board on Criminal Justice. These committees meet regularly to keep citizens informed on planning projects, to educate the public on subjects which concern them, and to solicit assistance in formulating plans.

In addition to regular meetings of the advisory groups, there are other activities designed to encourage citizen involvement. These activities include public meetings, workshops, and seminars.

Public meetings on the Rocks Village Bridge project, the proposed North Andover Resource Recovery site, and on water quality issues were designed to solicit citizen comments in the planning stages of the projects and not as an afterthought. Some of the special activities for FY79 included Housing and Urban Development seminars on housing issues, affirmative action, and housing costs. The MVPC sponsored a road race and canoe race in June, 1979 to promote water quality issues and emphasize that cleaner water means greater recreation benefits. The Advisory Board on Criminal Justice interviewed Merrimack Valley citizens to get their views on problems and



priorities with respect to crime control problems. Lawrence and Haverhill residents were contacted through a mail survey to solicit their views on the current transit service.

The MVPC is continually looking for new ways to encourage citizen involvement in addition to maintaining successful ongoing citizen participation programs. Persons interested in any of the MVPC's planning activities are encouraged to contact the MVPC at 374-0519.

Newsletter

The MVPC newsletter is a monthly publication designed to keep citizens and local officials aware of developments of regional significance. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please contact Donald Brais at 374-0519.

↑ MVPC UPDATE

APRIL 1979 VOL 6 - NO 3 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

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COASTAL MONIES Page 4

The Office of Coastal Zone Management is now accepting local applications for its Community Assistance grants program.

LOCAL APPLICATIONS Page 3

The MVPC Staff recently prepared "Incentive" grant applications for Merrimack and Salisbury.

WATERFRONT USE Page 8

Due to increased demand for waterfront use, an expected result of pollution abatement programs, wastewater treatment facility land is being considered for its recreational potential.

MASS TRANSIT Page 9

The MVPC has filed its fourth grant application with the Urban Mass Transportation Administration to continue its transit planning program.

Annual MVPC Dinner

The Annual Dinner Meeting of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, May 3, 1979 at the Haverhill Country Club. The guest speaker will be Byron J. Matthews, Secretary, Executive Office of Communities and Development.

Water Quality Report Ready for Review



Restoring and maintaining the quality of the Merrimack River; these and other water quality concerns are discussed in the MVPC's "Water Quality Status Report."

A year long study of water quality issues and concerns in the Merrimack Valley Region has resulted in the preparation of a summary "Water Quality Status Report."

The status report, prepared by Commission staff, identifies the major water quality concerns in the region, analyzes existing controls and management systems which deal with those concerns, and makes specific recommendations to local, regional, state and federal groups. Please refer to pages 7 and 8 for a discussion of these recommendations.

Any interested persons are invited to review the status report, and to attend a public meeting on May 2, 1979 at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the College Center at Northern Essex Community College.

The report is available by calling Harold Briggs (374-0519) at the Commission offices.

Georgetown to File CDBG Application

In March 1978, the Georgetown Selectmen were notified by Congressman Nicholas Mavroules that the town had been selected by HUD to file a final application for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$266,000.

Georgetown was the only MVPC community to have filed a successful pre-application. It was one of several written by the MVPC Staff.

Georgetown's proposed project involves the installation of drainage facilities around Rock Pond, due to the homes there experiencing major flooding problems. On April 9th, HUD will hold a training session on how to write a final application, and Georgetown will then have until June 15th to prepare the document. The MVPC will again be assisting the town.

MVPC UPDATE

MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Applications 1

Criteria (6) rehabilitation of public and privately owned housing and group homes. The major requirement for eligibility is that the project principally benefit low and moderate income persons.

All of our communities that have applied for CDBG funds in the past have citizen participation plans that call for public hearings to ask for suggestions for possible projects. Hearings should be scheduled no later than right after Labor Day.

Funds for Rural Areas



The Farmers Home Administration within the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture operates a variety of programs for farmers, rural residents, groups and communities. FdA programs are generally available in towns with maximum populations of 500.

(Cont. on Page 8)

MVPC UPDATE

MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

MVPC, Elects

Let me take this opportunity to assure you that your Commission and staff intend to work extra hard to convince you that our association will be mutually beneficial.

During the regular April Commission meeting, the MVPC held its annual election of officers. As a result of that election, Mr. Curtis Walton of Newbury is our Chairman; Mr. George Moran of Andover was elected Vice-Chairman; Mr. William Slusher of Groveland

(Cont. on Page 8)

Three Additional MVPC Invited to File CDBG Applications



Amesbury's Ordway School CDBG Rehabilitation Project

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission was notified on May 4 by Congressman Mavroules' office that three more of our communities have been invited to submit final applications for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Funds by the Department of Housing.

(Cont. on Page 7)

MVPC UPDATE

MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Perform Studies Andover

Andover has contracted with the MVPC to perform the above studies, a portion of the Town's Local Technical Assistance time will be used to reduce study costs. It is estimated that these studies will be completed in six months time.

Although Andover has contracted with the MVPC to perform the above studies, a portion of the Town's Local Technical Assistance time will be used to reduce study costs. It is estimated that these studies will be completed in six months time.



Diagrams can be constructed above sewer interceptors, that little is known about the legal, institutional, and financial issues associated

(Cont. on Page 4)

MVPC UPDATE

MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Grant

existing outdoor or indoor recreation areas and facilities. A 70% match is available.

As an incentive to State involvement in the recovery of urban recreation systems, the

(Cont. on Page 12)

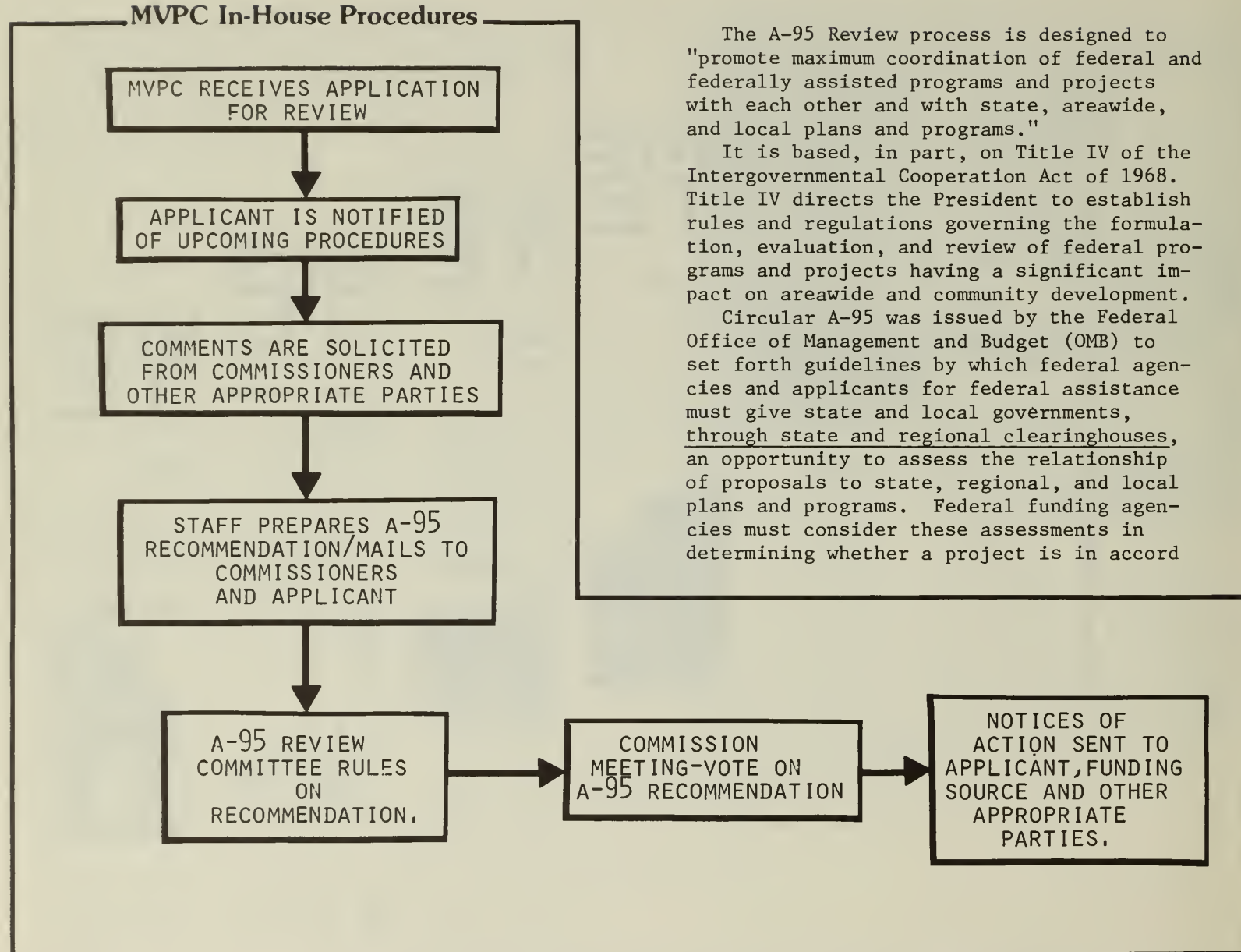
Haverhill Rescuing Abandoned Buildings



The Haverhill Chamber of Commerce is starting a demonstration project to rehabilitate an abandoned four-family structure to a two-family and then sell the building to a resident owner. There are approximately 40 other potential

(Cont. on Page 10)

A-95 Review Process



with applicable federal law and consistent with state, regional, or local concerns.

Recognizing the wide diversity among states, regions, and localities in the manner in which public business is conducted, A-95 puts few constraints on clearinghouses in the way they manage the review process.

According to the most recent Federal Register regulations for A-95, "comments and recommendations made by or through clearinghouses with respect to any project are for the purpose of assuring maximum consistency of such project with state, regional, and local comprehensive plans.

Summary of Reviews

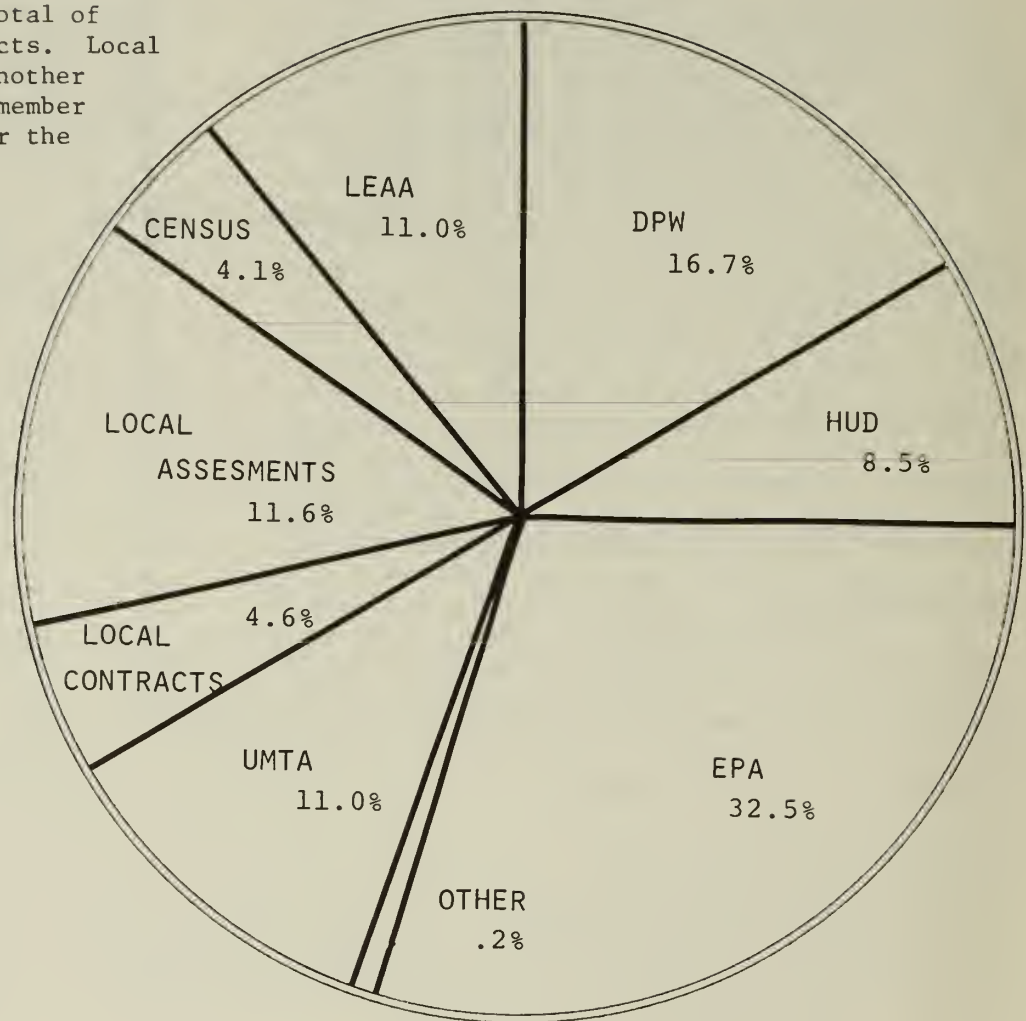
<u>FEDERAL AGENCY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REVIEWS</u>	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT</u>
ACTION	1	\$ 26,345
Community Services Administration	10	899,432
Department of Health, Education & Welfare	18	4,126,566
Department of Housing & Urban Development	24	17,077,315
Department of Labor	2	47,056,400
Department of Transportation	2	193,860
Economic Development Administration	2	294,460
Environmental Protection Agency	5	1,450,601
Farmers Home Administration	2	80,000
Federal Aviation Administration	1	-----
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service	3	520,000
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration	13	2,314,694
Water Resources Council	1	58,250
TOTAL	84	<u>\$74,097,923</u>

Finance

During the period between July 1, 1978 and June 30, 1979, the MVPC received a total of \$348,114 in federal and state contracts. Local contracts contributed \$19,422 with another \$48,772 received from assessments on member communities. The total resources for the year amounted to \$420,179.

The major expense of planning activities was the payment of staff salaries. Planning, administration and support staff salaries amounted to \$216,180 (51%) of the fiscal year's expenses. Other expenditures included overhead \$160,523(38%) consultant fees \$4,00(1%) and local expenses, travel expenses and printing costs \$30,921, brought the total to \$423,425.

Revenue Sources



Assets

Cash	\$ 2,815
Accounts Receivable:	
Federal grants	33,014
State grants	32,297
Assessments	48,772
Local contracts	2,001
Sundry	<u>1,151</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>117,235</u>
Prepaid Expenses	<u>6,668</u>
Office Equipment	6,702
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>2,196</u>
Office Equipment - Net	<u>4,506</u>
	<u>\$131,224</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balance

Notes Payable	\$ 10,000
Accounts Payable - Consultants, etc.	9,687
Accrued Warrant Payable	13,974
Employee Withholdings	2,152
Accrued Payroll	6,074
Accrued Expenses	3,353
Contract Advances	30,723
Grants Payable	<u>1,712</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>77,675</u>
Fund Balance	
Unrestricted	11,098
Allocated to matching share requirements and local Technical Assistance	<u>42,451</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>53,549</u>
	<u>\$131,224</u>

Revenue Sources

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Housing and Urban Development	\$ 35,937
Urban Mass Transportation	
Administration	41,967
Department of Public Works	70,054
Environmental Protection Agency	136,502
Federal Bureau of the Census	17,419
Law Enforcement Assistance	
Administration	46,235
Local Contracts	19,422
Local Assessments	48,772
Other Local Revenues	<u>1,170</u>
	<u>\$417,478</u>
NON-CASH MATCH	<u>2,701</u>
TOTAL.....	<u>\$420,179</u>

Expenses

Direct salaries	\$190,439
Direct fringe benefits	25,741
Indirect costs	160,523
Printing and special supplies	24,231
Travel	6,690
In-kind services	2,701
Consultants	4,000
Outside labor	2,276
Equipment	1,378
Meeting expense	1,483
Project inspection fee	425
Local expenditures	<u>3,538</u>
TOTAL.....	<u>\$423,425</u>
DEFICIT.....	\$ 3,246

Committee Assignments

Program

Andover - Russ Moran, Chairman
Newburyport - Fred Gabriel
North Andover - Gayton Osgood
Salisbury - Ann Carey
West Newbury - June Cook

Personnel

Newbury - Curtis Walton, Chairman
Haverhill - Joseph D'Orazio
Merrimac - Arthur Evans

Finance

Groveland - William Slusher
Amesbury - Cynthia Lemieux
Lawrence - John Stundza
Methuen - Don Shea
Newburyport - Fred Gabriel

By-Laws

Newbury - Curtis Walton, Chairman
Haverhill - Joseph D'Orazio
Lawrence - John Stundza
Georgetown - Holly Haller
North Andover - Gayton Osgood

TPAG

Amesbury - Cynthia Lemieux
Haverhill - Richard B. Swain

Contract Negotiating

Newbury - Curtis Walton, Chairman
Groveland - William Slusher
Andover - Russ Moran

Water Quality

Amesbury - Cynthia Lemieux
Georgetown - Holly Haller
Newbury - Arthur Allen

Site Selection

Amesbury - Cynthia Lemieux
Groveland - William Slusher
Haverhill - Joseph D'Orazio

Regional Solid Waste

Georgetown - Holly Haller, Chairman
Andover - Russ Moran
Methuen - Kevin Hagerty
Newburyport - L. Donald Phillips
North Andover - Joyce DiTore

A-95 Review

Groveland - Wm. Slusher
Lawrence - John Stundza
West Newbury - June Cook

NOTE: The Commission Chairman is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Commission Attendance

	July*	Aug*	Sept**	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Amesbury			C/C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Andover			A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Georgetown			C/C	C	C	C	-	C	C	C	C	-
Groveland			C/C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Haverhill			C/C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Lawrence			C/C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	A
Merrimac			-	C	C	-	-	C	-	-	-	-
Methuen			C/C	C	C	A	-	-	-	-	C	C
Newbury			A/C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Newburyport			C/C	C	C	-	C	-	C	-	C	C
North Andover			A/A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Salisbury			C/C	-	C	-	-	-	C	C	C	C
West Newbury			C/C	C	C	C	C	-	C	C	C	-
C = Commissioner			* = No meeting held									
A = Alternate			** = Two Meetings held									

Staff

RICHARD M. GLADSTONE
Executive Director

KATHLEEN B. BARTOLINI
Assistant Executive Director

Water Quality

R. JEFFREY RIOTTE
Program Manager

ALAN D. MACINTOSH
Hydrologist

HAROLD P. BRAGG
Senior Planner (R)

CHERYL A. BREEN
Junior Planner

PAULA A. NEWCOMB
Junior Planner

ROBERT L. GOODWIN
Planning Aide (R)

Criminal Justice

RAYMOND G. WILSON
Program Manager (R)

SUSAN J. MARSHALL
Senior Planner

PATRICIA ROBINSON
Senior Planner (R)

Housing and Land Use

DOROTHY ALTMAN
Senior Planner

MARY JO SMITH
Senior Planner

Transportation

WILLIAM J. HART
Highway Program Manager

JOSEPH J. COSTANZO
Transit Program Manager (R)

KWANG Y. CHAN
Transportation Specialist (R)

HEIDI M. MARSTON
Senior Planner (R)

JEFFREY K. YOUNG
Senior Planner (R)

SAMUEL A. SACCO
Senior Planner

STEPHEN A. ESTES-SMARGIASSI
Junior Planner

JAMES A. HEIDELL
Junior Planner

PAUL R. LAPONIUS
Planning Aide

Cartography

DONALD E. BRAIS
Junior Planner/Cartographer

MARK D. CAMERON
Drafting Aide (R)

Administration

SEARON RUOCCO
Administrative Assistant

SUSAN R. HARRISON
Administrative Secretary

DIANNE M. O'NEIL
Senior Clerk Typist

KAREN KERELEK
Senior Clerk Typist (R)

PATRICIA PAQUETTE
Junior Clerk Typist

PATRICIA CHAMBERLAIN
Junior Clerk Typist

DONNA M. ESMEL
Junior Clerk Typist (R)

VALERIE GARVEY
Bookkeeper (R)

CARL "JOE" WALDEN
Accountant/Bookkeeper

CANDICE LANE
Assistant Bookkeeper (R)

JAMES F. WHITTAKER
Planning Aide

Interns

ERNEST ALVINO
Salem State College

CYNTHIA AMIRAULT
Tufts University

RICHARD FORTUCCI
Salem State College

DONALD HAMEL
Salem State College

CAROLE HAMILTON
Tufts University

ANDREA KELLEHER
Northeastern University

PAUL KONIECZKA
Salem State College

DEBORAH MCGAULEY
Bradford College

DONALD TURBIDE
Salem State College

Publications (Selected)

- Water Supply and Sewerage Planning, 1970
Open Space Study, 1970
Regional Land Use Plan, 1970
Recommended Definitions for Low-Moderate
Income and Standard Housing, 1970
Inventory of Citizens' Organizations, 1971
AVCO Work Program for Water and Sewer Study
Housing Inventory Report, 1972
Regional Solid Waste Study; 1973, 1974
Analysis of Income and Poverty, 1973
Fair Share Housing Distribution Study, 1973
Preference Study, Community, Neighborhood
Housing, 1973
Outdoor Recreation Study, A Preliminary
Determination of Need, 1973
Merrimack Valley Regional Bikeways Report,
1975
Chapter 774 (The Anti-Snob Zoning Law) Its
Impact on the MVPC Region, 1976
Merrimack Valley Area Transit Study (Draft)
1976
Base Data Report, 1976
"Chapter 780, The Agricultural Preservation
Act," 1978
Haverhill Comprehensive Transportation Draft
Study, 1978
Housing Profile, 1977
Merrimack Valley Area Transit Study, A
Progress Report, 1978
Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Annual
Report, 1976-1977
Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Prospe-
tus, 1978-1982
Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Trans-
portation Annual Review Report
Methuen At Leisure, The Open Space/Recrea-
tion Plan, 1978
Trailer/Mobile Home Regulations of the
Merrimack Valley Planning Commission
Region, 1978
Transfer of Development Rights, A Land Use
Tool, 1978
Rocks Village Bridge Corridor Planning
Study, 1979
Transportation Systems Management Element,
1979
MVPC Prospectus, 1979-1983
Transportation Improvement Program, 1978
Final Water Quality Status Report, 1979
Market Research Study Plan, 1979
Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Plan
Update, 1979
Marketing Plan for the MVRTA, 1979
Land Use Element, 1979
Housing Element, 1979
Dirty Waters (draft) MVPC Rivers, 1979
Accessory Apartments (draft), 1979
Areawide Housing Opportunity Plan (draft),
1979



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Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

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1977-78

Annual Report



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Letter From The Chairman



It is with pleasure that the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission transmits its twentieth Annual Report. The agency has undergone remarkable changes since its inception, and has grown from a staff of three to one of eighteen. Our highly competent professional staff is recognized throughout the State, and in my opinion, is second to none.

A turning point was reached last year with the hiring of a new Executive Director, Richard Galdstone. Through his tutelage we are rapidly moving forward in providing increased professional staff capability; achieving more visibility with the general public; providing a

high level of service to member communities; and implementing Commission planning programs.

Through the Commission's concentration on Local Technical Assistance Programs, the staff is improving its relationship with local boards. Community officials have found the Commission's assistance invaluable for their local planning programs.

In closing, I feel the Commission is well on its way to becoming a model agency for the State of Massachusetts. I look forward to the continued growth and development of the MVPC, as it meets the challenges of the coming year.

Respectfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph S. D'Orazio".

Joseph S. D'Orazio, Chairman

Director's Report

This fiscal year concludes two decades of regional planning in the Merrimack Valley Region. Since 1959 when the City of Lawrence, and the Towns of Andover, Methuen, and North Andover voted to become members, the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission has grown to include 13 actively participating communities.

Fiscal Year 1977-1978 has seen the continuation of this trend of rapid growth. Expanded programming from the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Commerce, Housing and Urban Development and Department of Public Works has increased the MVPC professional staff to fourteen and the support staff to four.

In addition to the several ongoing federally funded programs, the Commission has contracted local projects including the

development of a Comprehensive Plan for Amesbury, a library study for the Haverhill Public Library, and the development of a zoning ordinance for Methuen.

The Local Technical Assistance Program, instituted last year, has been utilized enthusiastically by many member communities. Using the sixty-five hours allocated to each community, MVPC staff members have assisted in updating local zoning ordinances to comply with the new Chapter 40A (808) of the Massachusetts General Laws, and in writing land use plans, a housing evaluation grant applications, and in developing an open space/recreation plan.

The Annual Dinner Meeting, held in May at the Emporium in Newburyport, was attended by Commissioners and staff. Frank Keefe,

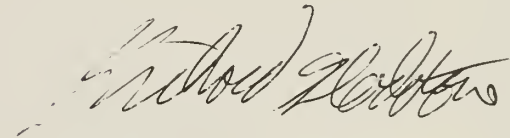
Director of the Office of State Planning was a well-received speaker.

New Commissioners welcomed this year include Ann Carey of Salisbury and Russ Moran of Andover.

A welcome is also extended to new staff members employed this year including Greg Jenkins, Kwang Chan, Donald Brais, and CETA workers Bob Goodwin, Donna Esmel, and Dianne O'Neil.

Finally, I'd like to note the assistance give the Commission by interns from area colleges, including Merrimack College, Bradford College, Northeastern University, Salem State College, and Tufts University.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities for serving the MVPC Region in the coming year.



Richard M. Gladstone
Executive Director

Community Representation

Community Representatives 1977-78

Chairman	Amesbury	Cynthia Lemieux	Roland Lemieux
Joseph D'Orazio	Andover	Russ (George) Moran	Donald Mulvey
	Georgetown	Holly Haller	Donald Peterson
Vice-Chairman	Groveland	William E. Slusher	Leo A. Downing
E. James Gaines	Haverhill	Joseph D'Orazio	Richard Swain
	Merrimac	Arthur Evans	George Waterhouse
Treasurer	Methuen	Ralph Richards	Kevin Hegarty
William E. Slusher	Newbury	Curt Walton	Arthur Allen
	Newburyport	E. James Gaines	_____
Secretary	North Andover	Michael Roberts	Gayton Osgood
June Cook	Salisbury	Ann Carey	Eugene Janvrin
	West Newbury	June Cook	Shirley Griffin

Regional Map



Committee Assignments

MVPC COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 1978 - 1979

CONTRACT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE	Haverhill Newburyport Groveland	Joseph S. D'Orazio E. James Gaines William E. Slusher
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	Haverhill Merrimac Andover	Chairman Joseph S. D'Orazio Arthur D. Evans Russ Moran
FINANCE COMMITTEE	Groveland Lawrence Methuen Amesbury Salisbury	Chairman William E. Slusher John A. Stundza Ralph K. Richards Cynthia Lemieux Ann Carey
PROGRAM COMMITTEE	Newburyport Georgetown West Newbury Newbury North Andover	Chairman E. James Gaines Holly Haller June Cook Curtis Walton Michael Roberts
SPECIAL COMMISSION ASSIGNMENTS		
AMESBURY SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE	Andover Georgetown Newbury Merrimac Salisbury	Chairman Russ Moran Holly Haller Curtis Walton Arthur Evans Ann Carey

NOTE: The Commission Chariman is an ex-officio member of all committees. The Alternate Member of each community will act in his/her Commissioner's absence.

Commission Attendance

	July [*]	Aug.	Sept. ^{**}	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June
Amesbury		M/A	M/M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Andover		A	M/-	-	-	M	M	M	M	M	M	-
Georgetown		M	M/M	M	M	M	-	M	M	M	M	M
Groveland		M	M/M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Haverhill		A	M/M	M	M	M	A	-	M	A	M	M
Lawrence		M	M/M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Merrimac		M	M/M	-	-	M	M	M	-	M	M	M
Methuen		M	M/M	M	M	A	M	M	M	M	M	M
Newbury		M	A/-	A	-	A	A	-	M	M	M	M
Newburyport		M	M/M	-	-	M	M	-	M	M	M	M
North Andover		M/A	M/A	A	M	M	M	A	A	M	-	-
Salisbury		M	-/M	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	M
West Newbury		M	A/-	M	M	A	M	M	M	-	M	M

M = Member

A = Alternate

* = No meeting

** = Two meetings

MVPC — The Regional Perspective

Over the last twenty years, the area of jurisdiction for the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission has expanded to include fifteen communities. Thirteen of these communities appoint local representatives who actively participate in the Commission. These representatives provide guidance and policy direction for comprehensive planning in the region.

The Commission also employs an Executive Director who is responsible for the selection of candidates to fill staff positions and for the overall management of planning activities.

The Commission receives annual funding from participating communities on a per capita basis and special funding from state and federal agencies to conduct specific planning projects.

The MVPC staff formulates comprehensive regional plans based on studies they perform concerning: land use, transportation, housing, recreation, environmental quality, economic development, and social welfare. In addition, the staff provides technical assistance for member communities to help solve local problems.

The MVPC strives to maintain a regional perspective in seek-

ing the solutions to multi-community problems. The primary goal of the Commission is to make the Merrimack Valley a desirable area for living, working, and recreation both now and in the future.

DPW

"3C" TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
PROGRAM

Management and Support

- development of a bikeway plan for Plum Island in Newbury, Massachusetts.
- development of a draft for the Haverhill Comprehensive Transportation Study.
- continued staff support for maintaining the Transportation Policy Advisory Group, the public involvement forum for the 3C Transportation Planning Program.
- development of a draft Unified Work Program, describing all regional transportation activities that will be performed under the second year of the current transportation planning contract.
- development of a draft Prospectus, describing work completed and anticipated to be completed for a five year period.
- development of an Annual Transportation Review Report covering the 1978 contract period.

Transportation Plan

The Long Range Element consists of the compilation and analysis of relevant data from all current regional planning programs. The purpose of this element is to develop a summary of extended regional transportation objectives which are in compliance with local needs and state objectives.

[illegible]

Transportation

will reduce the need for expensive planning studies and will provide continued analysis of existing and future regional travel flows. The computer process will eventually supersede the present conventional means of developing plans to meet transportation needs in the region.

The Transportation Systems Management Element identifies low capital and management oriented activities which can be implemented in the short range. The activities provide for efficient management of the existing transportation system. Some of the projects listed in the Transportation Systems Management Element are interim or alternative solutions to long range problems.

Both components of the Transportation Plan will be reviewed and endorsed annually to confirm their validity and consistency with current transportation and land use conditions.

Transportation Improvement Program

The Transportation Improvement Program consists of improvements recommended from the Transportation Systems Management and Long Range Elements of the Transportation Plan.

The program is separated into two time frames; the annual element which lists all projects to be completed in the forthcoming year, and the 2-5 year element. All projects listed within the program are prioritized on a regional and state level.

Projects for transportation improvement include bridge and road reconstruction, landscaping, traffic flow improvements and bikeways.

The Transportation Improvement Program is developed, updated, and approved annually, under the direction of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and in cooperation with local officials.

Special Studies

Rocks Village Bridge Corridor
Planning Study

During FY1978, the MVPC, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Works began a Corridor Planning Study Report for the Rocks Village Bridge. The Bridge spans the Merrimack River between Haverhill and West Newbury. The report was initiated due to safety problems associated with the Bridge and resulted in the development and analysis of several possible alternatives for improving the Bridge. Citizen comments solicited through public meetings are also included in the report.

At the request of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works, the MVPC will undertake an additional corridor planning study for FY1979. This study will address the need for improved access to the site of the proposed solid waste resource recovery facility in North Andover.

Water Quality

In December 1977 the MVPC became actively involved in an areawide 208 water quality planning program. The "208" program refers to Section 208 of the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments, which mandated that comprehensive planning be undertaken for river basins across the country. The 208 programs must stress regional management solutions since water quality problems are not confined to individual municipal boundaries. The goal of these programs is to achieve fishable and swimmable waters nationwide by 1983 and to ultimately eliminate all pollutant discharges by 1985.

In the MVPC Region, the 208 Program is administered by the State Department of Environmental Quality Engineering. Under contract with the State, the MVPC used initial funds to provide a preliminary inventory of potential pollution sources.

Section 208 emphasizes the need to assess pollution from non-point sources of a diffuse nature as well as recognized point sources from direct discharge pipes. Therefore, staff efforts concentrated on attempting to locate

and more clearly define pollution from landfills, septic systems and their associated septage pumpings, and improperly disposed sludges from wastewater treatment plants. Also, a preliminary evaluation of stormwater runoff problems in the urban areas was begun.

An assessment of these pollution sources was made for each of the region's communities. The assessments included evaluations of current local control and management practices in comparison to minimum state and federal regulations. Eventually the information can be refined into local recommendations which reflect each community's anticipated growth rate and land use interests. In some instances, regional or statewide recommendations may be appropriate to alleviate common water quality problems.

Section 208 water quality planning programs are specifically required to be prepared with full citizen participation. To help incorporate greater public comment in the water quality planning process, the 208 staff now meets on a monthly basis with a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC is composed of locally appointed members from the region's communities and representatives from state and federal agencies.

Further study will be undertaken in the next fiscal year to properly define corrective actions where current water pollution controls are insufficient. The final report prepared by the MVPC 208 staff is scheduled for submittal to the State Department of Environmental Quality Engineering in June of 1979. The information on local concerns and recommendations will then be incorporated into a full river basin plan prepared by the State.

— 4 —

After the publication of the Housing Profile, a compendium of housing information, the MVPC housing program continued with the preparation of the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The Housing Element analyzed the housing needs of the MVPC region through the year 1995. Based on MVPC population projections, the number of new single and multi family units were then projected and from that information, the number of subsidized housing units needed by 1995 were estimated.

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and legal service offices. Citizen groups including the League of Women Voters, NAACP, ministers and a local Spanish organization, were also invited to join.

The MVPC has worked with the Task Force to focus on current impediments on housing in the region, and ways of making it easier to build housing. The mechanism chosen by the MVPC and the Task Force was a series of workshops. The first of the planned workshops already held was on the "abc's" of rehabilitating old buildings for housing.

Land Use

Local planning boards will eventually receive final printed copies of the Land Use Plan, as well as a set of overlay maps utilized in the methodology.

During the past year, the MVPC continued its efforts to maintain a liaison with human services agencies. Staff members sat on the Massachusetts Local Officials Human Services Council, the Elder Services Advisory Board, the Ambulatory Care Task Force of the Merrimack Valley Health Planning Council, the Community Services Advisory Board for the District Welfare Office, and assisted the Area Strategy Team. This activity has assured coordinated planning in the MVPC region.

Community Assistance

In its interest to assure that the Merrimack Valley remain "a desirable area for living, working, and recreation, both now and in the future" the MVPC provides a variety of community assistance. In particular, member communities which do not have planning personnel benefit from this assistance.

Local Contracts

The MVPC has entered into local contracts for major technical work.

Amesbury Comprehensive Plan

The Amesbury Planning Board selected the MVPC to formulate a comprehensive plan for the Town. Basic studies begun in June, 1977, include Land Use, Physical Features, Population, Transportation, Economic Base and Community Facilities. These studies will culminate in 1979 with a twenty-year plan to guide Amesbury's growth and development.

Zoning Ordinance and Land Use Plan for Methuen

The City known as the Town of Methuen contracted with the MVPC to develop a zoning ordinance in compliance with Chapter 808 of the 1975 Massachusetts General Laws. The ordinance is comprised of: definitions, establishment of districts, use tables, flood plain zoning, dimensional controls, and administration.

Additionally, the MVPC staff reviewed Methuen's comprehensive plan, and developed a population analysis and a land use plan.

Haverhill Public Library
Comprehensive Plan

The Haverhill Public Library Board of Directors has chosen the MVPC to perform a comprehensive study of the library and its services. The study is one of several being funded within the Commonwealth by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The study includes a telephone survey, a community analysis, library services analysis, and recommendations, which will aid administrative library personnel in making more well-informed decisions regarding library operations and services. The MVPC is the first regional planning agency to be selected to perform one of these studies. If the completed study is well received by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, other libraries in the Region may be able to utilize the MVPC for comprehensive studies.

Newsletter

The Newsletter is presently mailed to approximately 800 persons. If you would like to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Mary Jo Smith at (617) 374-0519.

DECEMBER 1978 VOL. 5 NO. 11

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AIR RESOURCE VEHICLE PLANNING COMMISSION

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LOW INFLATION Page 6

The MPTC has been selected as the "Central Pacific Development Agency" for all of State County and parts of Suffolk County.

MOVING BARBERS Page 3

The county's Economic Development Opportunity Fund (EODF) identifies barriers that have prevented lower income families and minorities from living in more communities, and proposes programs to overcome these barriers.

BUS SERVICE Page 2

The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority has recently been instructed by service between Haverhill, Lawrence and Hingham.

Workshop

EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR
EDUCATORS
AND
SCHOOLING

DATE: January 9, 1979
TIME: 9:30 - 3:30

PLACE: Heritage House
3 Washington St.
Haverhill, MA 01830

Inside Page 6

Air Quality Hearing Scheduled for Dec. 21

Air pollution is a topic that almost everyone has discussed at one time or another. It will be the subject of a public hearing on December 21 at 1:00 P.M. in the El Chapal Building of the Haverhill State Hospital.

In spite of recent major public concern, however, little has been done to help combat air quality standards.

In 1970 Congress passed a Clean Air Act which sets procedures and deadlines for cleaning up the air in the United States. The severity of the air pollution problem in the major metropolitan areas of the United States and Massachusetts made it impossible to meet the original standards at the time. The failure of the 1970 Act to meet air quality standards, however, and in 1977 Congress passed Clean Air Act Amendments to the procedure through which transportation related air quality improvements

must now be developed and implemented. Many of the amendments to these amendments were designed to avoid the delays and uncertainties that had plagued which occurred in the transportation control planning under the 1970 Clean Air Act.

As in the 1970 Clean Air Act, the State Implementation Plan, which is the Foundation for transportation related

the 1977 Clean Air Act Amendments. By January 1, 1979 each state must submit a revised SIP for all areas where national ambient air quality standards have not been met.

This revised SIP must provide for attainment within reasonable and certain standards by 1985, or demonstrate in the Environmental protection Agency (EPA) that such attainment is not possible despite the implementation. (Continued on Page 5)

Farmland Preservation Applications Sought

The Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture recently announced that the final draft of regulations for the "Farmland Preservation Act" (Chapter 180B of the Acts of 1977) is now available, and interested farm owners may apply to their local Conservation Commission. The regulations were presented at the October

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Public Participation Groups

The MVPC establishes committees of Commission members to deal with administrative matters and to guide planning functions. Planning committees review staff reports and advise the MVPC on matters of planning policy. Additionally, as the Commission sees fit, special committees are established to review crucial issues in the region. The Amesbury Solid Waste Committee is an example of this practice.

Public involvement is also accomplished through advisory committees which are appointed by member communities. Each of the following groups has been described under their corresponding program.

Public Communication and Participation

WATER QUALITY POLICY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

Arthur Allen
Joseph Borgesi
Linda Collins
John Greeley
Peter Haack
Holly Haller
Cynthia Lemieux
Carl Lemuth
Robert McQuade
Geraldine Murphy
William Pauk
Howard Reith, Chairman
Leo Rocco
Nathan Tufts
Jeff Zager

TRANSPORTATION POLICY
ADVISORY GROUP (TPAG)

Robert Brown
James Carey
Sheldon Cohen
James Freer
E. James Gaines
Holly Haller
Cynthia Lemieux
Joseph Mahoney
Nancy MacGregor
Bernard Morrison

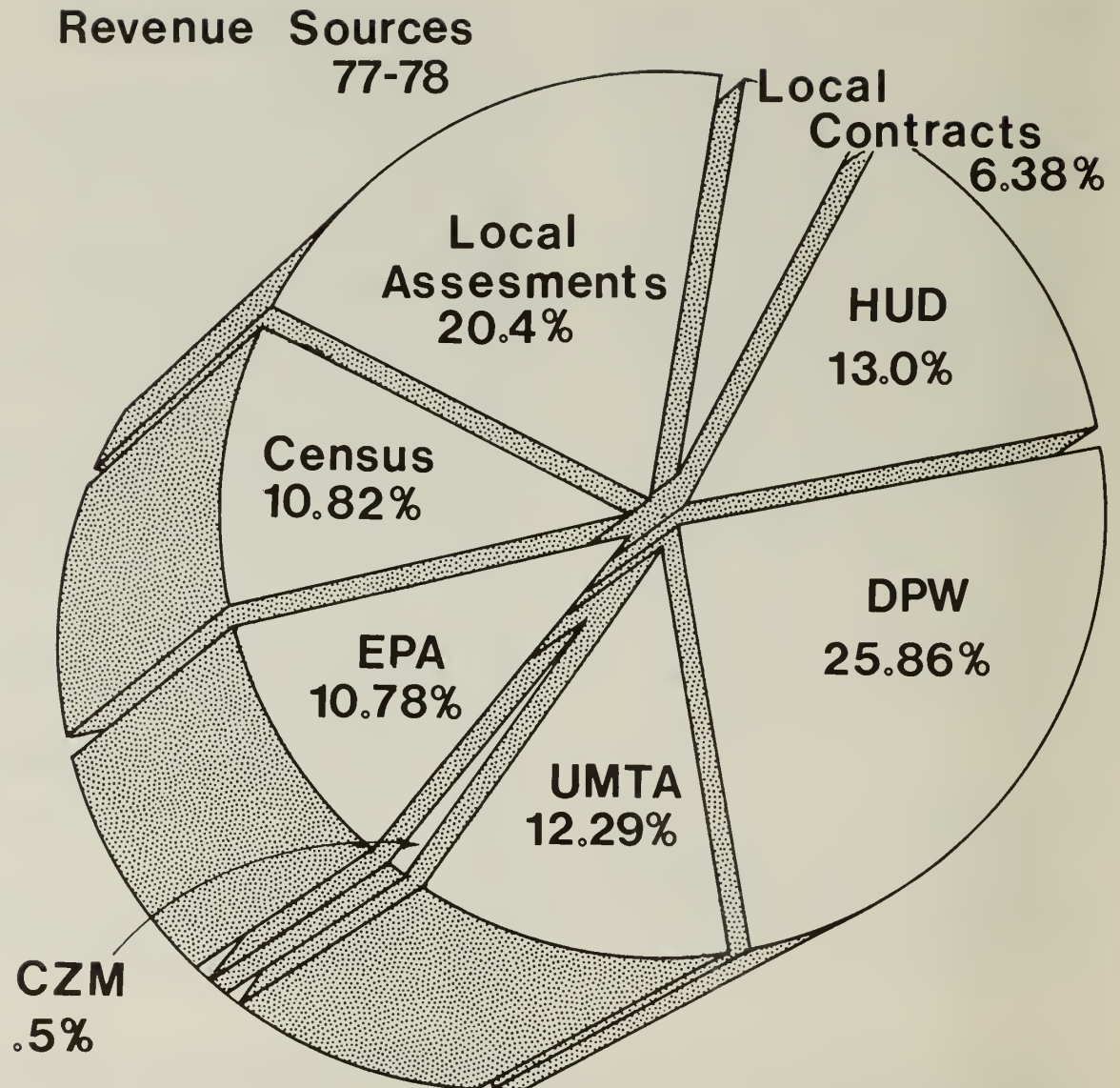
HOUSING TASK FORCE

William Ammon
Kourken Annanian
Sandy Baillie
Robert Ball
Thomas Barbieri
Ralph Barrett
Edward Bartlett
Lenny Blum
John Bradshaw
Marge Bradshaw
Herbert Brown
George Butler
Daniel G. Chapman
Donald Coleman
Jarda Cragg
Norman Crook
Rev. Frank R. Cutter
Kenneth Davis
Roseanne Destefano
Richard Dones
James Drederian
Father Foley
Janice Frank
Francis Gibney
Cushing Giesey
Jane Criswald
Ralph E. Goodwin
Kevin Hegarty
Holly Haller
Marilyn Handren
Lillian Hart
James Hogg
Edward Jarvis
John Jennell
Rhys Kear
Lawrence Kelleher

Martha Larson
Roger W. Lavigne
Roger Lemire
Sam Maranto, Jr.
Joanne Marden
Linda Meehan
Louis Minicucci
Grant E. Morse
Emily Murphy
Michael P. Muraca
Francis X. McGowen
Janet McLennon
Benjamin Osgood
Gayton Osgood
Joseph Pappalardo
Louis Patracone
Karen Porter
Thomas Phillips
Rev. Joseph Rand
Thomas Real
Lois Richardson
Adam Rizzo
Joyce Robinson
Evelyn Rudis
William Shultz
Frederick G. Scott, Jr.
Dennis Stabbins
John J. Stuart
William Vance
Eugene Vincent
Thomas Walsh
Mary Watson
Susan Weiss
Dennis Welcome
Jane Whelan
Thomas Wilkins
Jonathan Woodman
Barbara Wyser

During the period between July 1, 1977 and June 30, 1978, the MVPC received a total of \$173,289 in federal and state contracts. Local contracts contributed \$15,000 with another \$48,164 received from assessments on member communities. The total resources for the year amounted to \$236,553.

The major expense of planning activities was the payment of staff salaries. Planning, administration, and support staff salaries amounted to \$122,433 (45%) of the fiscal year's expenses. Other expenditures including overhead; \$99,173 (37%) consultant fees, \$10,475 (4%) and local expenses, travel expenses, and printing costs, \$24,873 (9%), brought the total to \$269,354.



Finance

FY77-78
REVENUE SOURCES

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Housing and Urban Development	\$30,816	13.0
Urban Mass Transit Administration	29,076	12.29
Department of Public Works	61,166	25.86
Environmental Protection Agency	25,498	10.78
Department of The Census	25,599	10.82
Coastal Zone Management	1,134	.5
Local Contracts	15,100	6.38
Local Assessments	48,164	20.4
	<u>\$236,553</u>	<u>100%</u>
NON-CASH MATCH	12,000	
TOTAL	<u>.\$248,553</u>	

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$122,433	45.4
Overhead	99,173	36.8
Consultants	10,475	3.9
Printing	3,305	1.2
Travel	4,362	1.6
Project Fee	425	.2
Local Miscellaneous Charges	16,781	6.2
TOTAL	<u>\$269,354</u>	

DEFICIT . . . \$20,801

Staff

Richard M. Gladstone
Executive Director

Kathleen B. Bartolini
Assistant Executive
Director

TRANSPORTATION

William J. Hart

Program Manager

Kwang Y. Chan

Transportation Specialist

Heidi M. Marston

Senior Planner

Joseph J. Costanzo

Senior Planner

WATER QUALITY

R. Jeffrey Riotte

Project Manager

Gregory Jenkins

Junior Planner

HOUSING

Mary Jo Smith

Senior Planner

Dorothy Altman

Junior Planner

CUE

Paula A. Newcomb

Junior Planner

Donna Esmel

Planning Aide

CARTOGRAPHY

Edward Cesati

Planning Aide (R)

Lawrence Devine

Cartographer (R)

Donald Brais

Cartographer

Robert L. Goodwin

Planning Aide

Staff

ADMINISTRATION

Susan R. Harrison

Administrative Secretary

Dianne M. O'Neil

Secretary

Marilyn Bailey

Receptionist

Irene Westmoreland

Bookkeeper

INTERNS

Cynthia Amirault

Tufts University

Richard DeAngelis

Northeastern University

Matthew Foley

Salem State College

Richard Fortucci

Salem State College

Eugene Gittens

Bradford College

Donald Hamel

Salem State College

Carole Hamilton

Tufts University

George Karambelas

Merrimack College

Robert LeBlanc

Bradford College

Hugh MacKenzie

Merrimack College

Donald Turbide

Salem State College

CETA

The MVPC has been fortunate to augment its staff through several CETA-funded programs. During FY77-78, the Work Experience Program provided a Drafting Aide, a Planning Aide, and a Secretary. These positions were filled by Robert Goodwin, Donna Esmel, and Dianne O'Neil, respectively.

The In-School and Out-School Title III Program provided part-time janitorial and reception services.

